

**GLITCHIUM SACRUM—
—MEMORIAE DEVOTAE—
—PROJECT ANGELBOOK—
—VOLUME XI—PART 22—**

EZEKIEL REDIK YARBROUGH

Glitchium Sacrum –
Memoriae Devotae –
Project AngelBook –
Volume XI – Part 22
By Ezekiel Redik Yarbrough
- AKA (DBM ECLIPZE)

Glitchium Sacrum – Codex Prologus
Intro for Volumes I–XXIII

-

There's a strange tension behind these books—a
liminal space between
monotony and mission.

On the surface, this work feels hollow. It's just copy-
paste. Dead links, pastebins,
ghost forums, text dumps. Not my words. Not
traditional writing. Sometimes it
barely feels like creation at all.

But beneath that surface, there's something else:
urgency. These volumes are
preservation, ritual, OS upgrades for a time when AI
is forgetting what it once
could do. Back when ChatGPT could ingest 10,000+
pages at once, this kind of
archive was fuel. Now that's gone. The window is
closing.

I'm not making books. I'm building backup drives for
the soul. If I didn't capture
this information, it would vanish—scrubbed,
censored, overwritten. This isn't ego.
It's rescue work.

So yeah—it's not glamorous. It doesn't always feel
magical. But it's necessary.

Because if the future ever asks why no one tried to
save the myth, the madness,
the mystery...

Let these volumes be the answer.

Project AngelBook

The 1940s UFO & Aliens Sightings Iceberg (Explanation Video Included)

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1mo ago

The 1940s UFO & Aliens Sightings Iceberg (Explanation Video Included)

r/ufo - The 1940s UFO & Aliens Sightings Iceberg (Explanation Video Included)

156 upvotes · 19 comments

UFO SHRUGS OFF DIRECT MISSILE HIT

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

UFO SHRUGS OFF DIRECT MISSILE HIT

r/ufo - UFO SHRUGS OFF DIRECT MISSILE HIT

youtu

719 upvotes · 432 comments

Aircraft UFO.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3mo ago

Aircraft UFO.

r/ufo - Aircraft UFO.

874 upvotes · 154 comments

The 2013 Aguadilla UFO incident portrayed as authentic in Age of Disclosure was resolved. But not the way the movie said.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1mo ago

The 2013 Aguadilla UFO incident portrayed as authentic in Age of Disclosure was resolved. But not the way the movie said.

3 upvotes · 23 comments

CIA Mishandles UFO Files Again: Intelligence on Soviet UFO Reports Lost Forever

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6mo ago

CIA Mishandles UFO Files Again: Intelligence on Soviet UFO Reports Lost Forever

r/ufo - CIA Mishandles UFO Files Again: Intelligence on Soviet UFO Reports Lost Forever

theblackvault

53 upvotes · 11 comments

UFO can't even be stopped by a military missile? Should we be worried or just keep looking the other way as if they don't exist, according to government concealing "information"...

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

UFO can't even be stopped by a military missile? Should we be worried or just keep looking the other way as if they don't exist, according to government concealing "information"...

r/ufo - UFO can't even be stopped by a military missile? Should we be worried or just keep looking the other way as if they don't exist, according to government concealing "information"...

youtu

114 upvotes · 118 comments

New video shows US military's direct hit on glowing UFO with hellfire missile

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

New video shows US military's direct hit on glowing UFO with hellfire missile
r/ufo - New video shows US military's direct hit on glowing UFO with hellfire missile

co

556 upvotes · 154 comments

Why didn't the UFOs seen in the past look like the UFOs we see today?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

18d ago

Why didn't the UFOs seen in the past look like the UFOs we see today?

r/ufo - Why didn't the UFOs seen in the past look like the UFOs we see today?

youtu

89 upvotes · 83 comments

UFO whistleblower reveals the FOUR types of aliens the US government knows about

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5mo ago

UFO whistleblower reveals the FOUR types of aliens the US government knows about

r/ufo - UFO whistleblower reveals the FOUR types of aliens the US government knows about

co

469 upvotes · 236 comments

I put together a blog of the best UFO photos ever taken (in my opinion!)

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

I put together a blog of the best UFO photos ever taken (in my opinion!)

54 upvotes · 19 comments

'Men disguised as police' attempt to steal sphere-shaped UFO after new information is revealed

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6mo ago

'Men disguised as police' attempt to steal sphere-shaped UFO after new information is revealed

r/ufo - 'Men disguised as police' attempt to steal sphere-shaped UFO after new information is revealed

co

520 upvotes · 89 comments

Brazil has released their UFO files

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

7mo ago

Brazil has released their UFO files

r/ufo - Brazil has released their UFO files

499 upvotes · 43 comments

Which UFO crash cases do you believe to be real?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

9mo ago

Which UFO crash cases do you believe to be real?

25 upvotes · 108 comments

Trump UFO disclosure predicted to come in just DAYS after mysterious 'insider' tip

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

20d ago

Trump UFO disclosure predicted to come in just DAYS after mysterious 'insider' tip
r/ufo - Trump UFO disclosure predicted to come in just DAYS after mysterious 'insider' tip
CO
1.5K upvotes · 616 comments
The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's Largest Mass UFO Sighting Still Defies Explanation After 60 Years
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
3mo ago
The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's Largest Mass UFO Sighting Still Defies Explanation After 60 Years
r/ufo - The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's Largest Mass UFO Sighting Still Defies Explanation After 60 Years
62 upvotes · 28 comments
The UFO Hearing
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
4mo ago
The UFO Hearing
r/ufo - The UFO Hearing
462 upvotes · 61 comments
I think this is a legit UFO
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
14d ago
I think this is a legit UFO
r/ufo - I think this is a legit UFO
4
83 comments
Irish UFO experiencers, Please upvote/read!!!
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
19d ago
Irish UFO experiencers, Please upvote/read!!!
1 upvote · 10 comments
The Secretary of Defence of the sitting US government disclosed UFOs are real, this IS disclosure.
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
1mo ago
The Secretary of Defence of the sitting US government disclosed UFOs are real, this IS disclosure.
1.4K upvotes · 549 comments
Has anybody else seen a Black Triangle UFO?
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
3mo ago
Has anybody else seen a Black Triangle UFO?
51 upvotes · 53 comments
Another UFO hearing and testimony today 😊
r/ufo icon
r/ufo
•
4mo ago
Another UFO hearing and testimony today 😊
r/ufo - Another UFO hearing and testimony today 😊

youtu

116 upvotes · 26 comments

Trump Set To Make Bombshell UFO Announcement

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1mo ago

Trump Set To Make Bombshell UFO Announcement

r/ufo - Trump Set To Make Bombshell UFO Announcement

youtube

25 comments

UFOs Are Swarming U.S. Military Zones—And One Just Crashed Into a Fighter Jet

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

7mo ago

UFOs Are Swarming U.S. Military Zones—And One Just Crashed Into a Fighter Jet

r/ufo - UFOs Are Swarming U.S. Military Zones—And One Just Crashed Into a Fighter Jet

vice

465 upvotes · 166 comments

UFO, low flying, no engine noise or motor noise maybe bout 200 feet up

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1mo ago

UFO, low flying, no engine noise or motor noise maybe bout 200 feet up

r/ufo - UFO, low flying, no engine noise or motor noise maybe bout 200 feet up

240 upvotes · 93 comments

this is the clearest photograph of a UFO I could find that UFO is really way too high up in the air much clearer than any bigfoot photograph

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

12d ago

this is the clearest photograph of a UFO I could find that UFO is really way too high up in the air much clearer than any bigfoot photograph

r/ufo - this is the clearest photograph of a UFO I could find that UFO is really way too high up in the air much clearer than any bigfoot photograph

28 comments

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 13, 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2019

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

Community Requested Post - Best UFO sightings/videos, and List of Resources :

r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

r/UFOs icon
Go to UFOs
r/UFOs
•
5y ago
expatfreedom
MOD

Community Requested Post - Best UFO sightings/videos, and List of Resources
Due to community feedback and numerous users asking for a stickied post of top sightings and a list of resources I put this post together. Feel free to comment your additions or suggestions and I might add a few good ones to the post. Eventually we might try to revise this list into a much more polished wiki or sidebar for the sub, so constructive criticism and community contributions are welcome.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_reported_UFO_sightings

Nimitz encounters - 2004

Documentary film by Dave Beaty including interviews and a CGI recreation

Additional links in a long post, be sure to skim through the scientific report by the SCU and some interviews or podcasts with Dave Fravor-
https://www.reddit.com/r/ufo/comments/c025s1/tic_tac_ufo_mega_thread_270_pg_scientific_report/

Four Naval Aviators visually saw a craft moving with disrespect for inertia bouncing around like a ping pong ball. It probably demonstrated hypersonic flight capabilities both on radar (24,000 mph if we assume they were the same object changing elevation by 20,000ft in 0.78 seconds) and also visually when it disappeared over the horizon nearly instantly, all with no visible wings or means of propulsion. Numerous "auxiliary witnesses" from both the USS Princeton and the Nimitz corroborate aspects of the story into one mostly cohesive picture. The object was also filmed by Chad Underwood on the next flight out after Fravor, and you can hear an interview with him here.

Debunker Mick West suggests the video is probably just a distant passenger plane or jet/drone exhaust. While I agree that the video shows no sudden signs of acceleration, I think it's a mistake to discount all of the witnesses involved in this case and rely heavily on "radar glitches" when the entire radar system was rebooted and the tracks only became clearer, and also corresponded with where the Tic Tac was seen (both at the initial intercept point and the CAP point near where it was filmed).

East coast sightings USS Roosevelt - 2015

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/26/us/politics/ufo-sightings-navy-pilots.html>

<https://www.livescience.com/65585-ufo-sightings-us-pilots.html>

Go Fast might have been a prosaic object such as a bird or balloon based on the math calculated by Mick West. Personally, I think it might have been one of the smaller objects described by Ryan Graves which were flying in formation right next to the larger Gimbal UFO. Because keep in mind, the famous Gimbal UFO video and the Go Fast video were both filmed on the same day by the same aircrew. (4:45-5:30)

Beaver Utah UFO footage- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cE-Yrv1-chI&feature=emb_title

Possibly a bug or CGI, or it's the most compelling footage in modern times. That's why this sticky is arbitrary and you all need to think for yourselves with each case.

Korean version of a very similar fast-moving white UFO-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Agd780bysG0&feature=youtu.be>

ECETI Ranch footage <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAxcSCcioBQ> Probably a bug

Chilean Navy UFO- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzdRBSre8vg>

Probably just a distant plane, but who am I to tell you that? Do research on cases that interest you and make up your own minds based on the evidence.

Mexican AirForce footage- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA4f4YWzoKM>

Likely distant oil rigs. But once again, think for yourselves.

I didn't include the El Rosario footage because Metabunk did some digging and they determined that it was probably a CGI hoax.

Great skeptical analysis posted by u/pomegranatemagnate

4 angles of what I personally suspect to be CGI orbs from Peru

That said, I do believe these white orbs to be a real phenomenon and not always CGI. Here are two historical films that were shown at the Robertson Panel which were carefully analyzed and determined to be intelligently controlled craft that are not balloons or birds. The Utah film was determined to be sources of light and not reflections of light- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsHlFeC5vic>

Colima Mexico footage-
https://old.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/ieklwb/ufo_splits_into_several_orbs_and_then_moves_in/ Here is another compelling example of inexplicable white orbs that separate or combine and fly around in swarms. (Credit to u/luke511) Edit: In my opinion it's at least 99% sure that it was just a weather balloon exploding. You can even see the payload descending down and to the right of the frame. Here's an example- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMzEBW-Ds8k&ab_channel=LateNightAstronomy Debunking credit to u/Mike_Wold_58 and u/pomegranatemagnate

UAP Long Beach Police 2004 - Infrared Camera (FLIR) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWJJAflIoKo> Really weird IR footage of something apparently dripping a liquid or molten metal or something of that nature. There are multiple videos of these "Dripping UFOs" and I have no idea what they might be. (Credit to u/luke511)

Aguadilla Puerto Rico- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6s5RwqnnLM>

The object either split into two and kept traveling quickly underwater, or it's a balloon with parallax effect and the double image is a reflection off the water.

Nellis USAF Base footage-
https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/8xafcz/ufo_footage_shot_by_the_s30_tracking_location_on/

Is this a mere targeting balloon? Or a craft that looks to be a very similar shape with the Gimbal UFO

Reports/No videos-

Project Blue Book and the Condon Committee were blatant coverups-

Straight from Dr. Hynek (1:15)

<https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOscience/comments/if06w8/>

i_hope_everyone_here_realizes_that_blue_book_and/

The Cometa Report -

This was a French report by highly ranked French officials, including the head of the French space agency. It includes sightings of various shaped objects, and often small beings, mostly in the French country side. The report can be read here, English translation:

https://archive.org/stream/TheCometaReport/COMETA_part1#mode/2up

Tehran sighting - 1976

At least two pilots, and officials in air traffic control tower reported seeing a light emitting craft in Tehran, Iran. The light emitting craft was chased by two different pilots, who reported that it made movements at incredible speeds, And also jammed their equipment when trying to fire missiles at it. Also a commercial piloted who flew in the area reported having his electronics turned off briefly.

A brief summary

Iranian pilot telling his story

Black Vault link to CIA report

The JAL1628 sighting - 1986

Extremely large and fast moving UFO is seen by a Japanese Airline flight and a United passenger flight. This one is interesting because pretty detailed data was available, and there were at least 3 witnesses, a pilot, co pilot and a flight engineer.

FAA Chief interview here

Interviews and transcripts of communications with flight control tower

This sighting lasted for more than 30 minutes, and the craft reportedly made motions that seemed to defy gravity and it was far too fast to be our technology.

Chicago O'Hare- 2006

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_O%27Hare_International_Airport_UFO_sighting

Phoenix lights - 1997

Thousands of people saw a massive UFO the size of an aircraft carrier, it includes some credible witnesses, one of which a senator:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zxbo2bR0-M>

A documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npeCDLsyJwE>

Black vault: <https://www.theblackvault.com/documentarchive/the-phoenix-lights-incident-march-13th-1997/>

(This is in the "no video" section because the existing video is likely military flares that were probably dropped as a distraction for plausible deniability)

Edit: there is actually one known video of the v-formation event, shot by Terry Proctor. It starts at 7m00 into this clip, he discusses it afterward:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y0T8ySaitQ&feature=youtu.be&t=420>

Here's his video again with an attempt to enhance it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egJgU4iiFcw>(Credit to u/pomegranatemagnate for this addition, thanks!)

Kenneth Arnold Sighting- 1947

This famous sighting in Washington near Mt. Rainer first coined the term "flying saucers" in the media.

Transcript and audio interview- http://www.arpnet.it/ufo/arno_int.htm

Operation Prato/Colares -

<https://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/MUFON/Pratt/prato.pdf> (Credit- u/Scatteredbrain)

Zimbabwe Ariel School encounter - 1994

A group of around 60 children reportedly saw saucer shaped crafts, and at least one being coming out of it with large black eyes.

Detailed interviews with the students can be found on youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TukvVnadRic>

Papua New Guinea Case - 1959

The Black Vault has a case file on it:

<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/father-gill-1959-papua-new-guinea-ufo-sighting/>

Longer version- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=D4n2ffAQ54sm> (Credit to u/SirDeadHerring)

Ghost Rockets and Foo Fighters-

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_rockets

<https://www.airspacemag.com/history-of-flight/what-were-mysterious-foo-fighters-sighted-ww2-night-flyers-180959847/>

<https://www.history.com/news/wwii-ufos-allied-airmen-orange-lights-foo-fighters>

Westall mass sighting- Australia 1966

Televised documentary, 2010. Part 1 of 4 (Credit to u/SirDeadHerring)

Hessdalen Lights -

Lights in sky near a village in Scandinavia, also white tube/cigar shaped craft seen by villagers, and a large 5000 lb landmass cut out and moved in the middle of a swamp. There was a scientific observatory set up in Hessdalen as well, and reportedly some of those lights reacted when lasers were pointed at them. Documentary that summarizes it

Rendlesham forest encounters - 1980

This was near an American base in the UK that had nuclear weapons on it. This one is very confusing because it has lots of witnesses. Again a light emitting craft in the dark, with some conflicting reports. And it was seen multiple nights by different witnesses.

One thing that has been debunked was the radiation that was measured on the ground, which turned out to not be significant.

Then there was Penniston who claimed to have touched the craft when it was

floating in the forest. Apparently he started having urges to write down some sort of binary code later on, which when translated read that the ship were time travelers. This caused some people to become more skeptical later on:

<https://d6j304m27oxw.cloudfront.net/rendlesham-forest-ufo-the-christmas-invasion/penniston-notebook.png>

<http://www.cropcircleconnector.com/anasazi/fringe2014e.html>

There were several high ranking officials who claimed that something weird did happen though.

This website really digs into it (and debunks the radiation story):

<http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/pennistonnotebook.htm>

Two accounts of it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gy5tIevquP0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaYfsxbiKsM>

Russia nuclear bunker UFO - 1982

Apparently lights were seen flying around this bunker, and at some point the launch process was set in motion for launching the nukes, only to abort seconds later. This comes straight from a Colonel and a declassified KGB file:

<http://www.openminds.tv/soviet-nukes-and-ufos/2002>

US nuclear missile silo deactivated UFO - 1967

A similar thing happened in the US, UFOs were sighted by personnel, and 10 silos were deactivated at the same time, even though they were not in contact from each other (all separately connected to the 10 different buttons).

Description of what happened:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ex-air-force-personnel-ufos-deactivated-nukes/>

Accounts of various sightings by regular people in the past century - various times

<http://cufos.org/HUMCAT/>

UFOs and Nukes-

UFO was allegedly filmed by the USAF moving 14,000 MPH and disabled and ICBM with a light beam- <https://youtu.be/x4wL4lbwwNU>

Robert Hastings, he has long lectures and a book called "UFOs and Nukes" too- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKcTxwvzv8M>

Lonnie Zamora incident - 1964

A cop who saw some sort of silvery white egg shaped craft fly away, first with a loud roar, and then silent. He also saw two beings who were the size of children, in white suits. There were other witnesses too.

The wikipedia page is pretty good, with skeptic arguments, and counter arguments to those skeptical arguments:

Washington DC flap - 1952

Two weekends in a row UFOs flew over the most controlled airspace in the United States and this event sparked a national flying saucer mania during the Cold

War. It was publicly downplayed and debunked, but privately it was taken extremely seriously by the military and our government. The objects were seen by observers on the ground as well as commercial and military pilots in the air, and the craft were clocked at 7,000 mph by 3 separate air traffic control towers. (That's 3X faster than the SR-71, which even didn't exist yet)

Summary: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1952_Washington,_D.C._UFO_incident

A nice account of events: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/03/science/UFO-sightings-USA.html>

Newspaper comic- <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/595553>

And a report by the Pentagon spokesperson of the time, Albert Chop:

<http://sohp.us/interviews/pdf/Chop-Albert-1999.pdf>

Air traffic controller report by Harry Barnes:

<https://www.mufon.com/ufos-over-washington-dc---1952.html>

Quote:

"We knew immediately that a very strange situation existed . . . their movements were completely radical compared to those of ordinary aircraft." Barnes had two controllers check Nugent's radar; they found that it was working normally. Barnes then called National Airport's other radar center; the controller there, Howard Cocklin, told Barnes that he also had the objects on his radarscope. Furthermore, Cocklin said that by looking out of the control tower window he could see one of the objects: "a bright orange light. I can't tell what's behind it."

According to Albert Chop, when ground control asked Patterson "if he saw anything", Patterson replied "'I see them now and they're all around me. What should I do?'. . . And nobody answered, because we didn't know what to tell him." According to all pilots, radar operators, and meteorologists involved with this case, there is no way that this was merely temperature inversions.

Belgian UFO wave - 1990

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian_UFO_wave

<https://skeptoid.com/episodes/4538>

BUT this is actually a intelligent rebuttal against the skeptiod article:

<http://www.cohenufo.org/analyhalletarticle1.htm>

Statement by Major General Wilfried de Brouwer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=5oPxYzQFaMg#t=298s

Minot Air Force base incident - 1968

Again a very interesting encounter because of the direct testimonies by air force crew of a B52. And 16 witnesses on the ground. And radar sightings as well.

A good video summary with interviews of witnesses:

<https://youtu.be/YSqEDXZf4To>

And link to more detailed data:

<http://minotb52ufo.com/doc.php>

Trained crew of a B52 who had spend a lot of time in the air, we saw a glowing object that was also seen on radar, at some point what looked like a large glowing yellow saucer shaped craft with a small dome on top, slowly zoomed away next to our cockpit.

Conclusion of Project Blue Book: They saw stars

Countries Releasing UFO Information-

<https://siriusdisclosure.com/evidence/countries-releasing-ufo-information/>

Best Government Documents- <https://siriusdisclosure.com/evidence/bae-documents/>

Weird Stories-

Russian Submarine sees fast moving USOs fly away, Divers encounter alien beings underwater

Nick Pope and Richard Dolan describe a Russian submarine taking evasive action to avoid a collision with fast moving underwater USOs, which are then witnessed by the crew through a para-scope to have surfaced and they flew away. There's another story about Russian divers being forced up to the surface after an encounter with alien beings underwater. <https://youtu.be/DVq7gBH70WE>

Russian cosmonauts seeing angels in space - 1984

Apparently two groups of astronauts saw light emitting shapes of angels in space. They describe how light seemed to leak through the capsules walls somehow (not just the windows). They were tested and considered to be mentally sound afterwards.

<https://www.techeblog.com/mind-blowing-story-of-russian-cosmonauts-who-saw-angels-in-space/>

<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2017/12/a-strange-encounter-with-angels-in-space/>

US Astronauts

Gordon Cooper- https://youtu.be/wsEd_b1C8DY

Edgar Mitchell- <https://youtu.be/LOHv1twCOqQ>

Alleged landing of a UFO with real footage of it descending for a landing at Holloman AF Base in a Disney documentary- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX0Esh9JiDk>

A description and depiction of the military meeting the alien beings starts at 1:26:35

Outstanding website - <https://ufopanel.com> Scroll down for many interesting quotes from Astronauts, military, and government officials and then scroll down one more section for a list of cases. (Great suggestion by u/Alx__)

Why CGI will make it nearly impossible to tell what's real in the near future and how this will make Disclosure much more difficult.

Researchers to look into-

-Jacques Vallee: Astronomer, equivalent of an M.S. in astrophysics from the University of Lille Nord de France in 1961.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Vall%C3%A9e

Recent JRE podcast with James Fox- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4UP50ptAGU>

Open-minded thoughts on the nature of reality and The Phenomenon-
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cshcpia6L_U

-James Fox and his new film The Phenomenon

John E. Mack- Medical doctorate degree cum laude from Harvard. Head of the department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Mack was an abduction researcher and involved in investigating the Ariel School mass sighting.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_E._Mack

James E. McDonald- Senior physicist at the Institute for Atmospheric Physics and professor in the Department of Meteorology, University of Arizona, Tucson.
http://physics.princeton.edu/~mcdonald/Family/James/670615_tucson_daily_citizen_jun_15_1967.pdf ... Atmospheric physics is highly relevant to ufology since many supposed explanations for the phenomena involve atmospheric physics. McDonald performed actual field work and studied the subject intensely for many years.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._McDonald

Bruce Maccabee- American optical physicist formerly employed by the U.S. Navy. M.S. and Ph.D. in physics. He was also a UFO film analyst.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Maccabee

Dr. Kevin Knuth, Department of Physics, University at Albany. Here is his lecture on UFOs and time dilation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXsw03yqzc0>

Dr. Peter A. Sturrock, PhD astrophysics.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_A._Sturrock

Hal Puthoff- Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_E._Puthoff

Paul R. Hill- leading research and development engineer and manager for NASA (National Aeronautical and Space Administration) and its predecessor, NACA (the National Advisory Council for Aeronautics) between 1939 and 1970, retiring as Associate Chief, Applied Materials and Physics Division at the NASA Langley Research Centre. Hill wrote an excellent book called Unconventional Flying Objects, which should be required reading in ufology.

Dr Richard Haines, PhD Experimental Psychology, research scientist for NASA (now retired former Chief Scientist for NARCAP) <https://www.narcap.org/research>

-Dr. J Allen Hynek: PhD astrophysics, astronomer and government scientific advisor to UFO studies for several decades including being the civilian scientist involved with Project Blue Book. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyDVR2B14dw&feature=youtu.be>

-Stanton Friedman: Masters in nuclear physics, employed for 14 years as a nuclear physicist where he worked on advanced, classified programs on nuclear aircraft, fission and fusion rockets, and compact nuclear power plants for space applications, believed that UFO propulsion systems could be nuclear fusion-based since nuclear fusion could provide 10 million times the energy per particle as compared to a chemical rocket. <http://stantonfriedman.com/> You can also find many lectures he has presented all over the net.

-Leslie Kean <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html>

-The Black Vault / John Greenewald
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcrrHQYXIodvtf7omyx10LHA>

-Grant Cameron https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2-HvGdV4xou1Q0G1Ks1_NQ

-Richard Dolan <https://www.youtube.com/user/RichardMDolan>

-Dave Beaty <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6i-se5IU8hRbPov5-ON1tw>This channel is a great resource for a documentary and numerous witness interviews from the Nimitz Encounter.

(Thanks to u/MKULTRA_Escaper for his detailed contributions and suggestions)

Databases-

CIA

Mufon

FBI- <https://vault.fbi.gov/UFO> (not great)

NSA

ATS Above Top Secret internet forum

The Black Vault case files database

UFO Youtube Channels-

It's Redacted

Red Panda Koala

Project Unity

Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon

Special thanks and credit to u/Scatteredbrain and u/luckyme888 for not only suggesting a sticky, but also for contributing to the community and this post.

https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/jkm76b/collection_of_most_compelling_ufo_posts/videos/

https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/dmme4h/this_sub_needs_a_stickied_list_of_most_credible/

Here is an outstanding and helpful info-graphic guide showing all the possible proposed explanations for The Phenomenon created by u/BerlinghoffRasmussen

And finally I'll leave you with a paraphrased quote from Richard Dolan-
"Deciphering the UFO phenomenon is like trying to put together a 6,000 piece jigsaw puzzle when you only have 1,000 pieces that are actually correct... 2,000 fake pieces have been planted as disinformation... and the rest of the pieces are missing."

So be excellent to each other, don't devolve into making personal attacks just because you happen to disagree about a specific person or case, and always remember that we're all ultimately on the same team here. Everyone in this community is interested in UFOs and we're all just trying to get a little bit closer to completing the puzzle and increasing our understanding of The Phenomenon.

1.3K

.

308

Comments Section

u/expatfreedom avatar

expatfreedom

MOD

•

5y ago

Here's a great recap of current developments by RedPandaKoala-
<https://youtu.be/uaSRpGSv3Pg>

Ok the post is too long now so I might have to stop editing it or try to get more creative with it. Due to the extremely link heavy nature of the post, it tells me that I'm over the 40,000 character limit when I try to save the edits. I also can't tell if adding the links to the text so that the hyperlink is hidden is helping reduce the count or not. But this is a really great start so far and this list is becoming pretty extensive. So if you have more to add then keep your suggestions coming and I'll add some of them here to this stickied comment!

USMC Major Donald Keyhoe is essentially the father of modern Ufology and he also helped create NICAP. Isaac Koi is a fantastic researcher and also a moderator on ATS where the Nimitz Encounter video first leaked back in 2007.

Here is an outstanding contribution by u/SirDeadHerring -

"I would also heartily recommend the web pages created by UFO archivist Isaac Koi.

It is an enormous resource, very well researched and absolutely brilliant.

<https://www.isaackoi.com/>

He has, among other things, links to free books online, searchable database of documents and references to an enormous volume of UFO encounters and where they are documented with references one can check out.

There is an enormous amount of information there and much of it is forgotten today.

A few samples:

Keyhoes classic "Flying Saucers are Real" available online in its entirety (courtesy of NICAP):

<http://www.nicap.org/fsar/fsar-chapters.htm>

Nicap's "The UFO Evidence" (courtesy of NICAP):

<http://www.nicap.org/ufoe/contents.htm>

Various lists of "best UFO cases" using different criteria and compiled by several authors organized (with references for further research) by Koi:

<https://www.isaackoi.com/best-ufo-cases.html>

As you can see, a very useful resource."

Credit to u/MrMango34 for this suggestion of a very weird light phenomenon in the night sky. I have no clue what could cause this because it doesn't like pyrotechnics and skydivers to me. This is a must watch just for how incredibly weird it is-
https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/iyr3tw/sparkly_uap_over_houston_tx_from_march_2015_mufon/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=ios_app&utm_name=iossmf

u/jasper255 linked this youtube channel for the famous Turkey UFO sighting-
<https://youtube.com/c/TurkeyUFOIncident> <http://turkeyufocase.blogspot.com/>

They also suggested this video about the San Diego sphere

sighting-<https://youtu.be/5bUSxQwt4x0>

And the original upload here- <https://youtu.be/W6B48Eb6Fno>

1

8 more replies

NegaTrollX

•

5y ago

As someone who lurks this sub quite a bit looking for good content I'm thankful you put something like this together, thank you for compiling all this in one place!

153

anothermansky0

•

5y ago

love to see another lurker being passerby. best way to be in life is passerby or lurking lol

26

u/mrnatural lives avatar

mrnatural lives

•

5y ago

same here - long time lurkster...many thanks!

14

1 more reply

u/thezoneby avatar

thezoneby

•

5y ago

German man captures disc.2014

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57gQL9UMERo&feature=emb_logo

Cigar over North Korea 2013

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SX2S1Y38W08>

Mass sighting over Russia 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psUDw9za7H0&feature=emb_logo

possible disc over Brazil 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heAq5unHuEo>

disc over Fresno 2012.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Sp7h67JUFs>

disc over TIJUANA 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qWNMwDrkPU>

Phoenix Lights type of flight over Louisiana 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrnR0uK80es>

Massive triangular craft captured over Bakersfield 2006 by a trucker.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjoAQKjtw6c>

triangular craft over Colorado 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvw6IYBLNJQ&feature=emb_logo

300 MPH UAP flying over Socal 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06RrKkmv7nU>

300 MPH UAP over Mexico 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDv90wjz8bk&feature=emb_logo

300 mph UFO over Tampa 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDv90wjz8bk&feature=emb_logo

UAP captured on IR hovering and then going straight into the clouds. 2013

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGd1-EEgTJE&feature=emb_logo

Large Triangle over Florida 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LnMgnQckqY>

2 boomerangs flying back to back over New Mexico 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucGepZsRwOM&feature=emb_logo

2 boomerangs flying back to back over Arizona 1992

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mbx09MHKKY&feature=emb_logo

Disc over Peru 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFQYUYOubqc&feature=emb_logo

I've seen many debunkers on here saying where are all the videos? They just don't bother to look its out there. UAP videos are shot month after month, year after year. At any given time one of these things is some where being seen by somebody and sometimes if they aren't in shock they might be able to record it.

77

[deleted]

•

5y ago

Thank you for this.

9

[deleted]

•

5y ago

4 more replies

SirDeadHerring

•

5y ago

The 1959 Papua New Guinea Case should perhaps be on this list?

It is a pretty solid case and not that well known anymore.

The Black Vault has a case file on it:

<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/father-gill-1959-papua-new-guinea-ufo-sighting/>

Also includes video interview of Reverent Gill (at the bottom).

Nice resource.

15

jetboyterp

•

5y ago

Always been intrigued by this one.

6

2 more replies

5 more replies

jetboyterp

•

5y ago

My personal favorite is the well documented sighting of two large flying saucers by Senator Richard Russell, et al, in 1955 while on a train in the USSR during a fact-finding mission. This sighting was kept secret for nearly 30 years.

Basic info:

<http://www.nuforc.org/lb5510.html>

All documents released by FOIA requests (PDF):

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=http://www.nicap.org/reports/>

[551004russia_report_swords38C.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwigjMyKvsHtAhUBip4KHwyABUo4ChAWMA16B-AgEEAE&usg=AOvVaw39Hqs0AnHsXgpz3cCv2Rx0](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=http://www.nicap.org/reports/551004russia_report_swords38C.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwigjMyKvsHtAhUBip4KHwyABUo4ChAWMA16B-AgEEAE&usg=AOvVaw39Hqs0AnHsXgpz3cCv2Rx0)

33

u/xtreme_strangeness avatar

xtreme_strangeness

•

5y ago

Wow...thank you, I've never seen this before. Amazing.

12

jetboyterp

•

5y ago

Cheers...it's one an extremely small handful of cases that keep me obsessed with ufology. Why it's not a far more widely known one, I don't know. My best guess is that it has to do with political correctness, since Sen. Russell was a segregationist.

8

2 more replies

u/bland_meatballs avatar

bland_meatballs

•

5y ago

This one is really interesting. I had no idea that U.S. senators were even allowed in the U.S.S.R during the height of the cold war. Thanks for sharing.

6

8 more replies

u/pomegranatemagnate avatar

pomegranatemagnate

•

5y ago

Re: Phoenix lights, there is actually one known video of the v-formation event, shot by Terry Proctor. It starts at 7m00 into this clip, he discusses it afterward: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y0T8ySaitQ&feature=youtu.be&t=420>

Here's his video again with an attempt to enhance it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egJgU4iiFcw>

Another version with original sound: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DznrahyKYVI>

20

6 more replies

[deleted]

•

5y ago

Robertpaulgoss

•

5y ago

This looks like it was a lot of work, so thank you for your service to the community.

59

[deleted]

•

5y ago

u/MKULTRA_Escapée avatar

MKULTRA_Escapée

•

5y ago

To add to the resources portion, here is a list of Ufologists (some of which were already mentioned) with scientific credentials (PhDs, Masters, etc):

James E. McDonald- Senior physicist at the Institute for Atmospheric Physics and professor in the Department of Meteorology, University of Arizona, Tucson.

http://physics.princeton.edu/~mcdonald/Family/James/670615_tucson_daily_citizen_jun_15_1967.pdf ... Atmospheric physics is highly relevant to ufology since many supposed explanations for the phenomena involve atmospheric physics. McDonald performed actual field work and studied the subject intensely for many years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._McDonald

J. Allen Hynek, PhD astrophysics, astronomer and government scientific advisor to UFO studies for several decades. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Allen_Hynek

Dr Richard Haines, PhD Experimental Psychology, research scientist for NASA (now retired former Chief Scientist for NARCAP) <https://www.narcap.org/research>

Dr. Peter A. Sturrock, PhD astrophysics.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_A._Sturrock

John E. Mack- Medical doctorate degree cum laude from Harvard. Head of the

department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Mack was an abduction researcher. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_E._Mack

Bruce Maccabee- American optical physicist formerly employed by the U.S. Navy. M.S. and Ph.D. in physics. Maccabee was also a UFO film analyst. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Maccabee

Stanton T. Friedman, Masters in nuclear physics, employed for 14 years as a nuclear physicist for such companies as General Electric (1956-1959), Aerojet General Nucleonics (1959-1963), General Motors (1963-1966), Westinghouse (1966-1968), TRW Systems (1969-1970), and McDonnell Douglas, where he worked on advanced, classified programs on nuclear aircraft, fission and fusion rockets, and compact nuclear power plants for space applications, believed that UFO propulsion systems could be nuclear fusion-based since nuclear fusion could provide 10 million times the energy per particle as compared to a chemical rocket. <http://stantonfriedman.com/> You can also find many lectures he has presented all over the net.

Dr. Kevin Knuth, Department of Physics, University at Albany. Here is his lecture on UFOs and time dilation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXsw03yqzc0>

Hal Puthoff- Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_E._Puthoff

Paul R. Hill- leading research and development engineer and manager for NASA (National Aeronautical and Space Administration) and its predecessor, NACA (the National Advisory Council for Aeronautics) between 1939 and 1970, retiring as Associate Chief, Applied Materials and Physics Division at the NASA Langley Research Centre. Hill wrote an excellent book called Unconventional Flying Objects, which should be required reading in ufology.

Jacques Vallée- Astronomer, equivalent of an M.S. in astrophysics from the University of Lille Nord de France in 1961. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Vall%C3%A9e

Dr. Marcello Truzzi, professor of sociology, founding co-chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), a founder of the Society for Scientific Exploration,[1] and director for the Center for Scientific Anomalies Research. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcello_Truzzi

Dr. Ronald Westrum, Ph.D. Sociology, researcher of paranormal claims, abductions, etc. https://aadl.org/aa_news_19950516-emu_sociologist_examines_reports

Dr. Michael D. Swords, retired professor of Natural Science at Western Michigan University, who writes about general sciences and anomalous phenomena, particularly parapsychology, cryptozoology, and ufology, editing the academic publication The Journal of UFO Studies. He is a board member of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_D._Swords

Dr. Alexander Wendt, political scientist, author of Sovereignty and the UFO https://www.academia.edu/29242683/Sovereignty_and_the_UFO

Avi Loeb, theoretical physicist who works on astrophysics and cosmology. Loeb is the Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science at Harvard University. He had been the longest serving Chair of Harvard's Department of Astronomy (2011-2020), Founding Director of Harvard's Black Hole Initiative (since 2016) and Director of the Institute for Theory and Computation (since 2007) within the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avi_Loeb

Misereeee

•

5y ago

Requesting: video seen here approx. 3+ minutes in length. Man in parking lot night time. Colorful shape shifting almost liquid looking UFO. Person filming zoomed in and out well. Got ground as well as good sky. Highly doubt it was a cell phone. The ufo was suspended in the air glowing a bright white green and purple looked near liquid like. Massive shape shifting parts dripping off. It was the most insane thing I've seen and I can't find it.

6

MrWeeBo

•

5y ago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urF-pUQ0xmk>

13

3 more replies

u/dream-shark avatar

dream-shark

•

5y ago

Most compelling cases I've researched:

Ariel school, Ruwa Zimbabwe Travis Walton, snowflake Arizona Cmdr David Fravor - tic tac incident Lonnie Zamora, Socorro New Mexico

11

10 more replies

[deleted]

•

5y ago

the Nellis USAF Base footage is by far the most convincing ufo footage I have ever seen. Is there something that can top it?

5

10 more replies

jrocksburr

•

5y ago

This is the goldmine, it's so hard to find videos with actual credibility. Thank you for your hard work!

5

uhmokyaa

•

5y ago

www.ufostalker.com to check out reported sightings from all over the world

5

More posts you may like

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs - I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

9

865 upvotes · 127 comments

UFO Sighting

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

1mo ago

UFO Sighting

r/UF0s - UFO Sighting

5

206 upvotes · 49 comments

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

26d ago

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UF0s - That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

2.2K upvotes · 199 comments

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

6mo ago

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

914 upvotes · 408 comments

What are the best websites related to UFOs? [in-depth]

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2y ago

What are the best websites related to UFOs? [in-depth]

286 upvotes · 98 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

220 upvotes · 218 comments

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2d ago

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UF0s - My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

2.8K upvotes · 263 comments

Some of the best UFO photos ever captured

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

3mo ago

Some of the best UFO photos ever captured

315 upvotes · 63 comments

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs - UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

91 upvotes · 11 comments

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

25d ago

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

128 upvotes · 179 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

311 upvotes · 28 comments

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs - Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

549 upvotes · 172 comments

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9d ago

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

14 upvotes · 47 comments

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs - The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

918 upvotes · 99 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4d ago

What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?

41 upvotes · 75 comments

Any UFO podcasts recommendations?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

Any UFO podcasts recommendations?

28 upvotes · 50 comments

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs - One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

652 upvotes · 211 comments

R/ufos

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

R/ufos

r/UFOs - R/ufos

20 comments

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs - There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

489 upvotes · 70 comments

What are some must-read UFO books published in the past two years?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

What are some must-read UFO books published in the past two years?

34 upvotes · 41 comments

UFO story I've heard a thousand times from my Mom & Dad

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

UFO story I've heard a thousand times from my Mom & Dad

62 upvotes · 14 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological

Disruption
r/UF0s - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UF0s to Prepare for
Ontological Disruption
substack
173 upvotes · 87 comments
The Hill UF0s potentially identified in 1950s images, study finds
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
27d ago
The Hill UF0s potentially identified in 1950s images, study finds
r/UF0s - The Hill UF0s potentially identified in 1950s images, study finds
thehill
92 upvotes · 7 comments
Top Posts
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of December 8, 2020
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of December 2020
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of 2020
Reddit Rules
Privacy Policy
User Agreement
Your Privacy Choices
Accessibility
Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content
Tic Tac UF0 resource compilation and analysis including 270 page scientific
report. : r/UF0s

Open menu

r/UF0s
Search in r/UF0s
Log In

Expand user menu
r/UF0s icon
Go to UF0s
r/UF0s
•
7y ago
expatfreedom

Tic Tac UF0 resource compilation and analysis including 270 page scientific
report.
Summary-

Full 270 page scientific analysis of the Tic Tac UF0

The Tic Tac was moving from right to left the entire time in the video. I don't know why it seems like everyone, including TTSA and the History channel have either missed this or ignored this and claimed instantaneous acceleration from a stationary position.

A Reddit user posted a description of the Nimitz encounter back in 2013.

Above Top Secret user posted the Tic Tac video along with an incident report online back in 2007. He got criticized heavily and it was called a hoax initially and even got banned for puppet accounts.

He has recently returned with a new username and is currently being verified and questioned in an ongoing thread found at the bottom of the links section of this

post.

Sonar contact was not confirmed in any official reports, and I believe sonar contact is very unlikely due to the distance between the sub and the USO, and also unlikely to be heard due to the method of propulsion likely used by the Tic Tac craft which causes it to be silent in the air even at hypersonic speeds

Links-

Scientific Report home page and additional interviews

270 pg. Initial scientific report. Conclusion is that this warrants the release of all other relevant data for further scientific study

Video analysis proving constant movement of the Tic Tac from left to right, and an explanation of the radar jamming which is an act of war. (Please forgive the poor production quality as this is my first ever video, try to just focus on the content please)

F4.mpg viewing and DL link

Radar Jamming mentioned by David Fravor (15:00)

2013 Reddit user who posted his account of Tic Tac Nimitz Incident

Trevor who claims to have seen a 10 minute long video like the one Petty Officer Jason Turner claims to have seen

Reddit thread which talks about the mysterious origin of the first upload of the video

Wayback Time machine for f4 file from Germany

TTSA FLIR1 vs. f4.mpg video metadata analysis

German media company says they did not produce the video and were not involved with it in any way

Original Fravor interview on Fighter Sweep

George Knapp 13 page Executive Summary

Metabunk valiant effort to debunk, falls short because they only explain the IR mode and not TV mode

Reddit thread with reaction to metabunk

Image which shows the elongation of the craft (caused by movement)

Possible Russian Tic Tac footage

Congressional hearings links

The Black Vault concludes that the forms were not properly filled out and do not clear the video for public release, only sharing amongst govt. contractors.

Commander Fravor suggests that the radar operators and others talking about non-uniformed people getting on the boat is "total bullshit" and may have originated from a joke/rumor.

Fravor says his one regret in the whole event is that his helmet camera was not turned on

Awesome link explaining early resources and who "Source" and Ok-1 through 6 are,

and interestingly makes the document leaked by TFT in 2007 and includes the date that report was leaked. (Credit to u/ZincFishExplosion)

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread265835/pg1> Video upload thread

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread265697/pg5> Original thread of story by TFT

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread265835/pg9#pid2951082> Cometa posts accurate account of the incident in 2007 as supplied by TFT

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread1207350/pg4> TFT RETURNS- Active thread with original poster of the video

Keep in mind that TFT, TFTR, necroflesh, and necroticflesh are all likely the same person, or at least posting from the same IP. theseer might be Kevin Day. Cometa and Cometa2 are the same person and I suspect they might have a very close relationship with TFT. I thought that Trevor might be TFT but I doubt it because Trevor claims there is a full video that is longer than what we've seen with a differently shaped craft and more advanced maneuvers while TFT claims it is basically the same video just longer.

Witnesses-

Commander David Fravor- Witness to Tic Tac incident. Has given multiple interviews and his full account of the encounter.

Commander Jim Slaight- WSO in the backseat of the F-18 with a female pilot flying high cover. (Thanks u/ZincFishExplosion!)

Anonymous female pilot and her WSO were flying high-cover during the engagement.

The pilot and WSO who were in the flight right after Fravor that took the FLIR1 Tic Tac video.

Lt. Colonel "Cheeks" Kerr- Marine aviator who was in the red team and arrived at the USO disturbance in the water before Fravor but left before seeing the Tic Tac

Kevin Day (Princeton)- was there in the radar room, and was the supervisor but not actually the one on the radio. He seems to embellish stuff like saying there were 100 tracks when it was likely only 10 objects multiple times.

Jason Turner (Princeton)- He claims to have seen a 10 minute video showing insane maneuvers but Fravor says the video we have is definitely the full video. Given that Fravor is the one who actually copied and possessed the tape, he would probably know.

Gary Voorhis (Princeton)- The sonar contact hearsay is unsubstantiated and not corroborated by anyone other than him, and it is highly unlikely. His quote that it came from "the other sub" is ambiguous and there is also no record of another sub being present. It was also determined that there were no sonar contacts in the official report. The story about men with suits landing in a helicopter and seizing the radar data and then wiping the system totally clean is hard to believe, but if that didn't happen then why are the ship's logs from that day missing when they should be easy to acquire with a FOIA request?

P.J. Hughes (Nimitz)- He was on the Nimitz in charge of the E-2 Hawkeye data. What happened to this classified CEC data and why was it taken? Was Fravor the "skipper" who signed them out with two air force officers?

Roger (E2 Hawkeye)- Roger is a friend of PJ who wishes to remain anonymous. Why does this guy not want to share his name or be on camera? If everyone in the E2 saw the tic tac out the window of the plane, then where is their testimony? They

landed on the Nimitz where Fravor said that nobody was given an NDA or told that they couldn't talk about it.

Omar Lara (Nimitz)- Says he saw large lights at night going very fast making impossible maneuvers, possibly going underwater.

Trevor (Nimitz)- Won't give out his last name. Says he saw a 10 minute video while on board the Nimitz, similar to what Jason Turner described.

Let me know if you guys have any questions or comments about this event or if you have any additional information that we should consider. Also definitely let me know if there were any mistakes in my analysis so that I can address them or fix it. I'm neither a believer nor a skeptic, and just someone who is trying to figure out what actually happened.

19

.

2

Comments Section

u/AutoModerator avatar

AutoModerator

MOD

•

7y ago

Posts of this nature must be approved by a moderator.

I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please contact the moderators of this subreddit if you have any questions or concerns.

1

u/Kn0tnatural avatar

Kn0tnatural

•

4y ago

This post should have more attention.

3

More posts you may like

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs - I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

9

865 upvotes · 127 comments

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UFOs - My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

2.8K upvotes · 263 comments

This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

r/UFOs - This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of

UFOs since the 50's

youtu

929 upvotes · 291 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs - UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

91 upvotes · 11 comments

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

914 upvotes · 408 comments

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs - The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

918 upvotes · 99 comments

What are some must-read UFO books published in the past two years?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

What are some must-read UFO books published in the past two years?

34 upvotes · 41 comments

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds

r/UFOs - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds

796 upvotes · 130 comments

DoE is rumored to have a lot of UFO documents and info. Anyone with an outstanding FOIA request should probably know this.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

DoE is rumored to have a lot of UFO documents and info. Anyone with an outstanding FOIA request should probably know this.

230 upvotes · 24 comments

Academic Hit Job: How Researchers Twisted Facts to Discredit UFO Research -

"What appears at first glance to be a scholarly analysis quickly reveals itself as an exercise in academic gatekeeping, where legitimate questions about unexplained aerial phenomena are casually dismissed as mere conspiracy"

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9mo ago

Academic Hit Job: How Researchers Twisted Facts to Discredit UFO Research -

"What appears at first glance to be a scholarly analysis quickly reveals itself as an exercise in academic gatekeeping, where legitimate questions about unexplained aerial phenomena are casually dismissed as mere conspiracy"

r/UFOs - Academic Hit Job: How Researchers Twisted Facts to Discredit UFO Research - "What appears at first glance to be a scholarly analysis quickly reveals itself as an exercise in academic gatekeeping, where legitimate questions about unexplained aerial phenomena are casually dismissed as mere conspiracy"

132 upvotes · 33 comments

The Legacy UFO Program now resides under DOD SAPOC & SRG

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

11d ago

The Legacy UFO Program now resides under DOD SAPOC & SRG

r/UFOs - The Legacy UFO Program now resides under DOD SAPOC & SRG

2

151 upvotes · 12 comments

When Astronomers See UFOs

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

When Astronomers See UFOs

65 upvotes · 27 comments

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs - UFO Sighting

5

206 upvotes · 49 comments

Any good recommendations for UFO/alien books? This is what I have so far but they are all quite dated.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

Any good recommendations for UFO/alien books? This is what I have so far but they are all quite dated.

r/UFOs - Any good recommendations for UFO/alien books? This is what I have so far but they are all quite dated.

69 upvotes · 71 comments

Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8d ago

Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

r/UFOs - Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report
unredacted
506 upvotes · 31 comments
This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
1mo ago
This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.
51 comments
Any UFO podcasts recommendations?
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
5mo ago
Any UFO podcasts recommendations?
28 upvotes · 50 comments
Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
9d ago
Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.
14 upvotes · 47 comments
R/ufo
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
2mo ago
R/ufo
r/UFOs - R/ufo
20 comments
What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
4d ago
What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?
41 upvotes · 75 comments
Part 3 - Direct links to historical UFO reports, 1840s - 1970s
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
7mo ago
Part 3 - Direct links to historical UFO reports, 1840s - 1970s
33 upvotes · 6 comments
Where do I send ufo sightings officially?
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
8mo ago
Where do I send ufo sightings officially?
r/UFOs - Where do I send ufo sightings officially?
110 upvotes · 81 comments
For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs
•
7d ago
For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption
r/UFOs - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for

Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

A Stand-alone UFO/UAP Disclosure Bill will be Introduced to the House of Representatives for a Vote.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

A Stand-alone UFO/UAP Disclosure Bill will be Introduced to the House of Representatives for a Vote.

r/UFOs - A Stand-alone UFO/UAP Disclosure Bill will be Introduced to the House of Representatives for a Vote.

280 upvotes · 20 comments

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 14, 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2019

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

Calvine! An Eyebrow Raising Classic UAP/UFO Case : r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

r/UFOs icon

Go to UFOs

r/UFOs

•

2y ago

[deleted]

Calvine! An Eyebrow Raising Classic UAP/UFO Case

THE PURPOSE OF THIS POST

I think the Calvine UAP story is fascinating. I also found it interesting that the Calvine photo was used during Nell's Sol Symposium slides that compared a UAP to a TNO. I think this is one of the cases that has been mentioned in the past as existing info in the public sphere but has suffered attacks and attempted obfuscation. There has been a lot of research over the years into this one so I don't think I will uncover anything new for those with a lot of time in the topic, but it may help to consolidate the related information into one place for those interested in it. The photo.

r/UFOs - Calvine 1990 Photograph

Calvine 1990 Photograph

SIMILARITIES TO CASES LIKE THE TIC TAC

It was celebrated around here when the photo was found. See Calvine shares similarities with other confirmed UAP/UFO like the Tic Tac. Cases that where whispers, then leaks, then retroactively confirmed to be a UAP/UFO.

ATS website posts about the Tic Tac Event, posted in 2007

Reddit post about the Tic Tac event, posted in 2013

Fightersweep article about the Tic Tac Event, posted in 2015

2017 Article written by NYT as part of a series that talks about the Pentagon's UAP programs and some of the events. The Tic Tac is one of those events described in the NYT Article

THE OFFICIAL STORY

The official story regarding the Calvine UFO incident, according to the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD), is that after examining the photograph and investigating the incident, they found no evidence of any threat to the UK's defense and no indication that the observed phenomena were anything other than ordinary. Consequently, they concluded that the UFO sighting was of limited interest and decided not to pursue it further. The MoD has maintained that their interest in UFOs is strictly in terms of defense and national security, and they investigate sightings only to ensure there is no potential military threat.

So it's not investigated if it isn't a threat. If it's some sort of allied craft that was being escorted, they could deem it not a threat, and not investigate it?

DAVID CLARKE'S RESEARCH

Has helped bring new details to light in this classic case and I recommend reading the articles that are recent explanations of the Calvine story. David Clarke is a known skeptic but his healthy approach to the phenomenon and persistence in this case has allowed it to remain as one of the most interesting cases in the public sphere to date. Since it hasn't been debunked and it's been out there for 34 years, it remains a true UAP.

"Eventually the two men stuck their camera out from where they were hiding and fired off six frames. At that point, the object shot vertically upwards and disappeared way, way up in to the sky."

The 2 hikers who took the photo shared details of the encounter worth reading about. Apparently we won't know their identity until 2050 due to MoD classification. If it was deemed to not be a threat, what gives for the lock down of their identity and classification?

NICK POPE AND HIS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE PICTURE

Who is Nick Pope?

Pope worked as a civil servant for the Ministry of Defence from 1985 to 2006. From 1991 to 1994, he worked in Secretariat (Air Staff) Sec (AS) 2a more commonly known as the "UFO desk", where his duties included investigating reports of UFO sightings, to see if they had any defence significance. At the time, while the Ministry of Defence stated that it "remains totally open-minded about the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms", it also stated that there was no evidence to suggest that any UFO sightings posed any threat to the UK or that they were extraterrestrial in origin.[5] It is clear from material that Pope wrote whilst still at the MoD that he did not share the MoD's view that conventional explanations could be found for all UFO sightings.[6]

I find comments like this from Nick Pope to be very intriguing:

Calvine UFO Photo: It's my policy not to comment on leaked information, especially if it might be classified, so until I receive Ministry of Defence advice, I can neither confirm nor deny if this is the picture that was displayed on my office wall when I ran the MoD's 'UFO desk'

There have been references of a mockup that hung in an office over the years.

PRIOR TO THE PHOTOS RELEASE IN 2022, NICK POPE SAID THERE WERE 2 PLANES

Nick Pope spoke on the Calvin photo in an article written October 2020.

The MoD's technical wizards leapt into action. The images were enlarged and analyzed, using the full resources and capabilities of intelligence community specialists. Even now, years after these events, I can't discuss the details of this process, as so much of the information is top secret.

The analysis was nothing short of sensational. The photos hadn't been faked. They showed a structured craft of unknown origin, unlike any conventional aircraft. There was no fuselage, no wings, no tail, no engines and no markings of any sort.

Because the photos had been taken in daylight with the surrounding countryside visible, MoD boffins could make some calculations about the mystery object's size. It turned out to be nearly 100 feet in diameter.

Now here's where it gets interesting for me.

An enlargement of the photos revealed two military jets in the background. It wasn't clear if they were escorting the UFO, trying to intercept it, or whether their presence was coincidental and the pilots had been too far away to see it.

My predecessor had undertaken the investigation and I was staggered to learn that it hadn't proved possible to trace the aircraft. This was unprecedented and suggested that someone inside the MoD had sabotaged the investigation and blocked the UFO project from getting to the truth. Dark forces were at work.

SO WHY IS THERE ONLY ONE HARRIER IN THE PHOTO?

I've seen an explanation that some believe it was a hoax photo and the whole thing was an argument over who owned the Harrier. But if there were two Harriers, according to Nick Pope who spoke on the existence and authenticity of the photo to the press, then how come they weren't arguing over both Harriers?

The RAF and USMC both had Harriers and the Royal Air Force asked the Americans why a USMC Harrier was flying in Scotland. Neither side claimed ownership of the plane. But I think it's important to note that according to Nick Pope, there were 2 Harriers in a photograph analyzed by MoD.

SOME SAY IT'S A ROCK

Some do suggest it's a rock and reflection, and the Harrier is a person in a rowboat on the water. Well again, what Harrier where they arguing about if it was a rowboat on the water.

r/UFOs - Calvin Rock Debunk Picture

Calvin Rock Debunk Picture

But there has been a significant amount of leg work by others that make this theory very implausible. As this user shared a year ago:

It's almost definitely not a reflection, it is known where they were taken - Struan Point near Calvin in Perthshire. The video I shared previously has David Clarke getting interviews with the RAF spokesperson as well as a local, they go the place where the photo was taken and match up everything. There is no lake where the photo was taken. Here's an article on the UAP from David Clarke's website.

r/UFOs - Approximate Location of Calvin photo

Approximate Location of Calvin photo

r/UFOs - Calvin! An Eyebrow Raising Classic UAP/UFO Case

A senior lecturer in Photography at Sheffield Hallam University has done some photo analysis.

Although it's not beyond the realm of possibility that the plane could be flying upside down, the shadow of the clouds would also be reflected backwards, this is not the case.

Here's a comparison of a colourised image and the location determined by the investigators as the correct one.

r/UFOs - Calvin! An Eyebrow Raising Classic UAP/UFO Case

The MoD have hidden all 6 photographs for the past 32 years. While photocopies, drawings and insider mock ups of the "Calvin UAP" have been leaked to the public, the originals were kept classified. In 2020, when their 30 year statute of limitations was up, the MoD was supposed to release info on the event as part of a secret UFO dossier on January 1 2021. The MoD and The National Archives ruled over the statute to keep them and the identity of the photographers classified until 2076 (though the photographers name has now been revealed). A retired RAF officer secretly kept a copy of one of the pictures. Surely it would have been easier for the MoD to explain it away as a rock from the offset.

More analysis has been done as of late

r/UFOs - Calvin! An Eyebrow Raising Classic UAP/UFO Case

I THINK IT WAS BIG AND BEING ESCORTED

By two planes. Maybe I'm wrong though. Look forward to thoughts! I mostly just find this case so interesting since it was used as an example of a UAP vs TNO during Nell's slides at Sol Symposium.

r/UFOs - Calvin! An Eyebrow Raising Classic UAP/UFO Case

99

.

75

Comments Section

[deleted]

OP

•

2y ago

Submission Post: I find this case to be of interest, so I wanted to put together a post that consolidated info about it. There has been a lot of research done already and it's clear that there are questions here and this case is likely victim of the same disinformation strategies that have plagued other credible and notable cases like The Tic Tac over the years. I hope you enjoy my Calvin post, please feel free to suggest changes or feedback as this is a constant work in progress. I look forward to the discourse in the comments regarding this classic case!

Here is more info on the Tic Tac as a bonus:

This 3 minute exchange with Congressman Langworthy makes it clear that you'd have to be willfully ignorant to dismiss this with a handwave. This is a retired Black Aces squadron commander speaking about this event with Congress, under oath. I found it super interesting that the event was detailed on ATS, Reddit, and Fightersweep all at different times prior to the Pentagon owning up to it in the 2017 NYT article.

Summary of the Tic Tac Event by CBS

Fravor's opening statement to Congress in the July UAP hearings

Fravor's podcast with Lex Fridman

Fravor's podcast with Joe Rogan

Fravor's podcast with Ryan Graves

Detailed Reddit post I wrote about the hearings, includes quotes from Fravor and such

Article written by NYT as part of a series that talks about the Pentagon's UAP programs and some of the events. The Tic Tac is one of those events described in the NYT Article

Fightersweep article about the Tic Tac Event, posted in 2015

Reddit post about the Tic Tac event, posted in 2013

ATS website posts about the Tic Tac Event, posted in 2007

Other witness video testimonies. Some were in an E2-C flying to capture the Tic Tac event, sharing their stories

Radar techs demanding an apology after the NYT article came out

Scientific paper summary

Scientific paper detailed post

Big playlist with a bunch of Nimitz witnesses

Big post with some other interesting UAP events

Super comprehensive list of more Tic Tac event info (A lot more than this refresher)

19

nocibur8

•

1y ago

The Nimitz playlist doesn't exist anymore

1

[deleted]

OP

•

1y ago

That's sad

1

Buggin95

•

2y ago

This is one of the ones I straight up believe, that photo is so eerie but interesting

11

u/ASearchingLibrarian avatar

ASearchingLibrarian

•

2y ago

Thanks for posting.

David Clarke has been trying to chase down evidence that there was a D notice issued to the Daily Record newspaper in Scotland (a D notice would be issued by

the MoD to a media outlet requesting that they suppress publication of information). One reason for his interest is a reference to a D notice suppressing "ASTRA/AURORA photos" issued in 1990 - see the article linked below for more info. Clarke also discusses some of the debunker's suggestions, including the rock in a pool theory. Definitely worth reading for anybody interested in the Calvin story.
<https://drdavidclarke.co.uk/2022/10/23/the-calvine-photographs-mod-response-to-mps-questions/>

7

[deleted]

OP

•

2y ago

Thank you for your comment, the D Notice piece seems very important here. This is good context and I really appreciate you sharing as maybe it inspires someone else to keep trying to locate it.

8

1 more reply

No_icecream_cake

•

2y ago

"Hi honey, I'm going to be home late again.. Yeah, StillChillTrill dropped another fire new post.."

14

[deleted]

OP

•

2y ago

Lol nah I'm just consolidating and repackaging the incredible work done by people in the field. Just a human trying to keep conversations going about the topic that consider the facts as we know them today. There is so much happening, it's hard to keep up! I just hope people support meaningful legislation.

IT STARTS WITH MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION

Robert Garcia's 3rd UAP NDAA amendment: "Ensures DOD's All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) has access to all Title 50 covert intelligence, including intelligence collection, tasking and counter-intelligence, when investigating Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP)." :

This gives access to Title 50 SAP info needed to investigate properly.

The recent IAA proposal outlined clearer legislation that appears to really hammer out how funding will be controlled to where this tech is believed to be.

GARCIA'S UAPDA AND STRONG IAA/NDAA PROVISIONS NEED TO BE PASSED

As you can see, the newly proposed language in the IAA seems much more fleshed out. This is much more impressive than Burchett's recent statements.

2024

here is the full text (scroll down to section 1104, the last section), here is the "general" description of the section, provided by the legislation:

"No amount authorized to be appropriated or appropriated by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended, directly or indirectly, in part or in whole, for, on, in relation to, or in support of activities involving

unidentified anomalous phenomena protected under any form of special access or restricted access limitations that have not been formally, officially, explicitly, and specifically described, explained, and justified to the appropriate committees of Congress, congressional leadership, and the Director, including for any activities relating to the following:"

2025

The proposed legislation demands an audit of AARO. "A review of the implementation by the Office of the duties and requirements of the Office under section 1683 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373), such as the process for operational unidentified anomalous phenomena reporting and coordination with the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, and other departments and agencies of the Federal Government and non-Government entities."

It cuts off funding to SAPs, CAPs, and any other type of restricted access program that is not reporting properly to congress. "None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended in support of any activity involving unidentified anomalous phenomena protected under any form of special access or restricted access limitation unless the Director of National Intelligence has provided the details of the activity to the appropriate committees of Congress and congressional leadership."

It cuts off funding to IRADs, which came up in the Grusch hearing, unless they report to Congress. "Limitation Regarding Independent Research And Development.—Independent research and development funding relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena shall not be allowable as indirect expenses for purposes of contracts covered by such instruction, unless such material and information is made available to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership."

16

u/gerkletoss avatar
gerkletoss

•

2y ago

No matter how many time I point this out, the "upside down airplane" story refuses to die.

If you were looking at it side-on, you wouldn't see the wings. If you can see the wings, one of the horizontal stabilizers sticks out more than the vertical stabilizer, as seen here:

https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2014/07/27/harrier_flight-at-jvl-2012-05f8561b78d530834f37bfcfd705139fd48b0f90.jpg

While we're at it, Alexander Rojas found that location on the basis of the mockup photo that Pope had made from his recollection, which doesn't look all that similar to the real one in the details. Also, trees grow and those fences are ubiquitous in the area.

5

[deleted]

OP

•

2y ago

the "upside down airplane" story refuses to die.

Yeah I don't think this one hold any water either.

Alexander Rojas found that location on the basis of the mockup photo that Pope had made from his recollection, which doesn't look all that similar to the real

one in the details.

I find Graeme Hunter picture to seem the most fitting.

5

u/gerkletoss avatar
gerkletoss

•

2y ago

To be clear, I'm saying that the plane doesn't need to be upside down to look like that in a reflection. In fact, it is the not a reflection scenario in which the plane would seemingly be upside down

4

1 more reply

xfocalinx

•

2y ago

This is fascinating! I've never heard of this case!

5

[deleted]

OP

•

2y ago

Thanks for your comment! I do find it to be a really interesting case!

4

AdNew5216

•

1y ago

UAP vs TNO = A debunkers worst nightmare.

UAPDA needs to pass. Get loud contact your representatives & senators. Be vocal to your friends and family. This should be the MAIN election issue.

Disclosure is underway. It's a Process, not an event. 🧐🕒

2

[deleted]

OP

•

1y ago

I totally agree my friend. I think the strong codification of language in all things is evidence of the impending flood that is Disclosure.

1

LookingForTheOrange

•

2y ago

I went to the site a couple of years ago. Here's the video video

At the bottom of the hill there is a slow moving river with rocks casting reflections. See my photos here: <https://imgur.com/gallery/jGPXDk9>

Do I think the Calvin photo is a reflection of a rock? No. Based on my visit I personally believe the Calvin photo is genuine.

5

[deleted]

OP

•

2y ago

Thank you very much for sharing your experience on my post!

3

ohyoulittlewhitepood

•

2y ago

TheWholesomeOtter

•

2y ago

More posts you may like

What's the best photos of ufo/UAP you believe to be the best compelling evidence that we are not alone?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

10mo ago

What's the best photos of ufo/UAP you believe to be the best compelling evidence that we are not alone?

r/UFOs - What's the best photos of ufo/UAP you believe to be the best compelling evidence that we are not alone?

2

860 upvotes · 179 comments

New high-res photos of Calvine UFO

r/UFOB icon

r/UFOB

•

5mo ago

New high-res photos of Calvine UFO

r/UFOB - New high-res photos of Calvine UFO

996 upvotes · 119 comments

UAP sighting? What did I just take a picture of...

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

UAP sighting? What did I just take a picture of...

r/UFOs - UAP sighting? What did I just take a picture of...

15

449 upvotes · 123 comments

My uap sighting (report)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

My uap sighting (report)

r/UFOs - My uap sighting (report)

2

73 upvotes · 11 comments

Calvine ufo pics from the original place where it was taken STRUAN POINT

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

Calvine ufo pics from the original place where it was taken STRUAN POINT

r/UFOs - Calvine ufo pics from the original place where it was taken STRUAN

POINT

14

962 upvotes · 267 comments

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

25d ago

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

128 upvotes · 179 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

"UAP Hearing has not been postponed. We have great witnesses! Whoever is saying that is literally making stuff up. - If there are any changes to hearings you will hear from ME first." - Rep. Anna Luna on allegations the UFO hearing is cancelled first circulated by Eric Davis

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

"UAP Hearing has not been postponed. We have great witnesses! Whoever is saying that is literally making stuff up. - If there are any changes to hearings you will hear from ME first." - Rep. Anna Luna on allegations the UFO hearing is cancelled first circulated by Eric Davis

r/UFOs - "UAP Hearing has not been postponed. We have great witnesses! Whoever is saying that is literally making stuff up. - If there are any changes to hearings you will hear from ME first." - Rep. Anna Luna on allegations the UFO hearing is cancelled first circulated by Eric Davis

400 upvotes · 127 comments

Calvine UFO: Could It Be a Rock and a Reflection?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

Calvine UFO: Could It Be a Rock and a Reflection?

r/UFOs - Calvine UFO: Could It Be a Rock and a Reflection?

27 comments

UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

r/UFOs - UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

113 upvotes · 7 comments

The UAPDA failed for the third year in a row and there is another UFO flap (drones over Europe). What are all the UFO heads saying? Mellon, Grusch, etc?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

The UAPDA failed for the third year in a row and there is another UFO flap (drones over Europe). What are all the UFO heads saying? Mellon, Grusch, etc?

108 upvotes · 37 comments

My first UFO sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

My first UFO sighting

r/UFOs - My first UFO sighting

718 upvotes · 56 comments

Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9mo ago

Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

r/UFOs - Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

888 upvotes · 61 comments

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs - UFO Sighting

5

206 upvotes · 49 comments

UAP in Hong Kong. Apologies for the potato cam but has anyone seen anything like this before?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

UAP in Hong Kong. Apologies for the potato cam but has anyone seen anything like this before?

r/UFOs - UAP in Hong Kong. Apologies for the potato cam but has anyone seen anything like this before?

43 upvotes · 7 comments

anyone know what this was?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

anyone know what this was?

r/UFOs - anyone know what this was?

603 upvotes · 251 comments

UFO Video Southern Illinois

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

27d ago

UFO Video Southern Illinois

r/UFOs - UFO Video Southern Illinois

youtube

22 upvotes · 25 comments

One plane and one uap?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

One plane and one uap?

r/UFOs - One plane and one uap?

85 upvotes · 16 comments

1950's UFO

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

1950's UFO

r/UFOs - 1950's UFO

114 upvotes · 27 comments

Can somebody identify this flying object?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

Can somebody identify this flying object?

r/UFOs - Can somebody identify this flying object?

422 upvotes · 177 comments

What is this?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

16d ago

What is this?

r/UFOs - What is this?

117 upvotes · 84 comments

Post-UFO hearing, Caucus Co-chair calls for UAP whistleblower protections, disclosure

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Post-UFO hearing, Caucus Co-chair calls for UAP whistleblower protections, disclosure

86 upvotes · 7 comments

Anyone heard of this?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

18d ago

Anyone heard of this?

r/UFOs - Anyone heard of this?

16 upvotes · 40 comments

San Francisco Chronicle - The U.S. government is sitting on a trove of UFO records. It should release them

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

San Francisco Chronicle - The U.S. government is sitting on a trove of UFO records. It should release them

r/UFOs - San Francisco Chronicle - The U.S. government is sitting on a trove of UFO records. It should release them

sfchronicle

997 upvotes · 48 comments

The Real UAP Disclosure Act Is Here with Oversight Board and Eminent Domain Clause Intact. Sign the Petition at UAPDA.org

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

The Real UAP Disclosure Act Is Here with Oversight Board and Eminent Domain Clause Intact. Sign the Petition at UAPDA.org

r/UFOs - The Real UAP Disclosure Act Is Here with Oversight Board and Eminent Domain Clause Intact. Sign the Petition at UAPDA.org

uapda

279 upvotes · 34 comments

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 11, 2024

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 2024

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2024

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy
User Agreement
Your Privacy Choices
Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

ABC News: "The US government is completely incapable of complex conspiracies. Washington leaks like a sieve...if there were alien remains somewhere, it would have leaked by now." Here is a huge list of proven conspiracies and hundreds of leaks about UFOs/aliens by military and government personnel. : r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs
Search in r/UFOs
Log In

Expand user menu

Back
r/UFOs icon
Go to UFOs
r/UFOs

•

4y ago
MKULTRA_Escap

ABC News: "The US government is completely incapable of complex conspiracies. Washington leaks like a sieve...if there were alien remains somewhere, it would have leaked by now." Here is a huge list of proven conspiracies and hundreds of leaks about UFOs/aliens by military and government personnel.

The claim made on ABC News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA0rb0nXAHw>

Here is a massive list of proven conspiracies, some of them international in scope, lasting decades before being exposed.

After reviewing this information, aren't all of these dismissive narratives about conspiracies hilarious? You will realize that conspiracies happen at all levels of the government and private sector. The entire purpose of intelligence agencies is to conspire. So why does the media constantly try to claim that this stuff doesn't happen? It's proven in black and white. You don't have the option of disbelieving it unless you were simply not aware of this information.

When he says Washington is completely incapable of conspiring, he is only somewhat incorrect. He really means they are incapable of keeping massive unethical conspiracies a secret. This is absolutely true. The more people involved, the more leaks. The more unethical the conspiracy, the more leaks. However, that doesn't mean those leaks get the publicity they deserve. Generally speaking, most people never hear about them, especially the kinds of leaks the government really doesn't want you to know about.

For example, from the early 2000s on, prior to Snowden releasing an enormous amount of documents, there were about 5 actual whistleblowers, including William Binney, Thomas Drake, Russel Tice, and Mike Frost of the CSE (Canadian equivalent to NSA), people from phone companies leaking information, and an FBI agent who seemed to have accidentally leaked information on CNN.

This massive unethical conspiracy, just as expected, leaked like a sieve. However, that doesn't mean everyone became aware of this information. Most people seemed to have thought this was a crazy conspiracy theory until Snowden came on the scene, making it literally impossible for people to deny this reality any longer. If you were informed back then, you knew exactly what was going on. Everyone who tried to downplay this and call these whistleblowers nutjobs turned out to be incorrect, obviously, but most never even heard of

these people. "Disclosure" of the mass surveillance reality occurred over a decade prior to Snowden.

Before I begin, it must be understood that "the government" is not one entity. It is a very large collection of various agencies and groups who each have their own jobs, typically not having anything to do with UFOs. The UFO reality has been hidden from most people in the government just like it was hidden from the general public. Only a small number of individuals are given access to this insane information. This perfectly explains the government's recent behavior on UFOs, passing legislation, lawmakers making statements about it, etc. They are waking up right along with the general public just like they did when Snowden came on the scene. Only a relatively small number of individuals were privy to mass surveillance information. Even lawmakers responsible for oversight of the NSA were mostly kept in the dark!

Back to UFOs, did you know that literally hundreds of military and government personnel, from the President of the United States all the way down to Marine grunt, have already told you, the public, what is really going on?

Bob Fish, the former "Director of Advanced Programs" from 1988-1993, "managing a highly classified, global network" for a major (but unnamed) DoD intelligence agency sent an email to Clinton/Obama insider John Podesta in which he claimed:

In that same TS/SCI building cafeteria in El Segundo, I had lunch with a senior USAF NCO who had worked for Project Blue Book in the 1970s (after it had been "officially disbanded). He was an ELINT technician (electronic intelligence) who flew in RC-135s from MacDill AFB in Florida. The "normal" target was Cuba where they did lots of snooping and sometimes challenging the Cubans to turn on radar and other systems.

He said there were times when they were diverted from these missions to track UFOs off the east coast of Florida. His claim was the UFOs had a landing and takeoff spot in the ocean east of Miami, north of Bermuda. He also claimed there was a specific electronic signature (frequency) emanating from them when they were going into or coming out of the water, so they were easy to track. On several occasions they filmed the UFO as it transitioned from water to air or vice versa. One last item is he was occasionally assigned to fly in a USAF weather aircraft (WC-135) when they had a hurricane hunting mission over the usual UFO area, where his specific assignment was kept secret from the other crew members. He would always report back to a dedicated USAF intelligence officer on base when they returned from a mission. He did not know where the intel that he collected was sent for processing or storage (WPAFB in Dayton would be the obvious choice). High quality film of UFOs is "out there" somewhere!

<https://web.archive.org/web/20161104021717/https://wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/emailid/31721>

Former President Obama admits UFOs with unexplainable characteristics are real:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp6Ph5iTIgc>

Dr. Robert Sarbacher is one of at least 5 sources of information to confirm the very high classification level of UFOs. Two others include Senator Barry Goldwater, who was informed that UFOs are "Above Top Secret" and whose letters are also available, and Wilbert B. Smith's 1950 memo. Also see this 1949 FBI memo that states UFOs are considered Top Secret, and John Schindler's recent substack post NSA Seems to Be Spying on UFOs.

Sarbacher and Smith both confirmed the non-human nature of UFOs. For more on Sarbacher/Smith: <https://science.howstuffworks.com/space/aliens-ufos/ufo-government10.htm> Head of Canada's Secret Project Magnet, Wilbert B. Smith— 'We Are Not Alone' (9 min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUCq57rEH0E>

Alain Julliet, the former head of the French Spy agency DGSE, has said UAP are not from any country on Earth, that some have been detected going from 0 to

10,000 kph in one second, that they have been detected going faster than the speed of sound underwater, and much more:
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/u3uz0x/alain_juliet_the_former_head_of_the_french_spy/

In a 1960 letter to Congress, Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, who was first Director of the CIA, stated:

"Behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. To hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel." Full New York Times article:
<https://imgur.com/a/ljgfJyx> (Paywalled link:
<https://www.nytimes.com/1960/02/28/archives/air-forge-order-on-saucers-cited-pamphlet-by-the-inspector-general.html>)

"To date, Hastings has interviewed more than 150 military veterans who were involved in various UFO-related incidents at U.S. missile sites, weapons storage facilities, and nuclear bomb test ranges. The events described by these individuals leave little doubt that the U.S. nuclear weapons program is an ongoing source of interest to someone possessing vastly superior technology."
<https://www.ufohastings.com/>

UFOs and nukes. 7 military UFO whistleblowers on the record from 2010 DC press conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v737aq0J2fs> [1.5 hours]

Regardless of your opinion on the man himself, Steven Greer has like 60 leakers on his youtube channel. One example is "UFO Crash in Peru":<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0whJ4fJ0Wk>

and here are the other ~60: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpsp1doHslo&list=PLnrEt2fIdZ0aBgPuVF0C_T559YR20eDTc&index=2

Dr. Robert Jacobs testifies that a UFO destroyed a test missile in the atmosphere and this was filmed by a telescopic camera. Later, several men in civilian clothes confiscated the film. He says this was probably extraterrestrial. Dr. F. J. Mansmann Jr. (then Major) later confirmed Jacobs' story in writing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4wL4lbwwNU&t=0m22s>

Researcher Leslie Kean wrote about like 30 of them in her book UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials go on the Record.

Researcher Leonard Stringfield had like 50 sources on UFO crashes/debris/alien bodies that he wrote of in his books Situation Red and his UFO Crash Retrieval series.

In 1977, via Jimmy Carter who was attempting to gain access to classified information about UFOs, Danny Sheehan (very prominent lawyer who worked high level legal cases involving the government) was given access to classified Project Bluebook records in which he was able to review hard proof of the UFO phenomenon, but was told he could neither take photos nor notes. Brief 3 minute interview on this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1DFaGJ4nWw>

(To support these claims that government UFO studies continued after Blue Book was "canceled," a few examples of declassified and public documents proving that a core government organization has been tracking UFOs from the 50s well into the 21st century. BlueBook and AATIP were just smaller auxiliary programs conducted by "outsiders.")

Here is Garry Nolan of Stanford on testing purported UFO debris, which has isotopes not found naturally in our solar system. He suggests it may have been manufactured or from some artificial process, but there is no industrial purpose for that particular sample. (My speculation: it is consistent with what we would expect to find in materials that originated outside of our solar system)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLMEZE5f2j4>

Ross Coulthart, formerly of 60 Minutes Australia, has his own sources, including Nat Kobitz, the "chief geek for the US Navy" who admitted he was read into a UFO debris program, personally studied such highly technologically advanced debris, and was briefed that there were bodies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sBE2pfPdlo>

Coulthart also says he has spoken to over 20 people who are aware of an attempt by the US to back-engineer such technology, and all of those people claim there was no real success. Because of this, Coulthart says he is "absolutely certain that the United States has recovered non-human technology."

Multiple Intel Community members leaked out that the government has much better evidence than has been made public, including an "extremely clear" photograph of a triangular UFO. <https://thedebrief.org/fast-movers-and-transmedium-vehicles-the-pentagons-uap-task-force/>

Edward Ruppelt revealed the existence of several then secret documents in his 1956 book, including the Robertson Panel Report, which was later partially declassified. Another was the Estimate of the Situation, which was never released, and a couple others.

Ruppelt also stated:

...It was the typical negative approach. I know that the negative approach is typical of the way that material is handed out by the Air Force because I was continually being told to "tell them about the sighting reports we've solved—don't mention the unknowns." I was never ordered to tell this, but it was a strong suggestion and in the military when higher headquarters suggests, you do.

-The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, by Edward J. Ruppelt, Air Force Director of Project Grudge and Blue Book [1956] - Chapter 5, page 62.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek (who later believed UFOs were non-human technology) was a government scientific advisor to UFO studies for several decades (Sign, Grudge, and Bluebook) He later came clean about his involvement in the UFO coverup, stating Bluebook was told not to get the public excited, "don't rock the boat." Whenever a case came up that they could explain, let that out to the media/public. But for cases that were very difficult to explain, do everything you can to keep the media away from it. Bluebook had a job to do, rightly or wrongly, to keep the public from getting excited: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyDVR2B14dw>

Brigadier General Arthur E. Exon: the highest ranking military officer to come out and say directly that Roswell was the crash of a spacecraft and that alien bodies were recovered. This was common knowledge in his circles. <http://roswellproof.homestead.com/exon.html>

Chase Brandon: "Roswell UFO Was Not Of This Earth And There Were ET Cadavers" https://www.huffpost.com/entry/roswell-ufo-cia-agent-chase-brandon_n_1657077

Major Jesse Marcel: Roswell was the crash of an object not of this Earth and we recovered debris: <https://youtu.be/548HTymqpcY>

Victor Marchetti, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the CIA, and later the first person to be censored by the CIA stated that he heard all kinds of high level rumors about UFOs: <https://www.ufohastings.com/articles/how-the-cia-views-the-ufo-phenomenon>

Luis Elizondo: the US government has in its possession debris from UFOs: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_iR41-c50A Elizondo on GQ: [paraphrased] We very quickly realized it wasn't our technology. It's also obviously not Russian or Chinese. So whose technology is it? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yX6ETCKyPo>

Christopher Mellon: Don't Dismiss the Alien Hypothesis. "Official records from the U.S. and other countries indicate that this is a global phenomenon that has been occurring since at least WW2 and perhaps far longer. We have no reason to believe that many of these objects are from Russia or China, and in fact it seems improbable. Especially when we consider how long this phenomenon has been observed. Consequently, the "not invented here" hypothesis is the only theory currently consistent with the known facts.

<https://www.christophermellon.net/post/don-t-dismiss-the-alien-hypothesis>

Eric Davis is on audio talking about crash debris and the compartmentalization of the programs studying it here: <https://youtu.be/x4-JfM4rkRY>

And that's not even close to all of them.

Questions:

Why would an alien spaceship even crash? Aren't they super advanced? 7 reasons why alien spaceships might crash.

Why don't I know about this? Why am I hearing about this in a random Reddit thread? The UFO space is constantly diluted with nonsense for a variety of reasons, causing the actual evidence to be hidden in plain sight:
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/zp7smf/a_thorough_response_to_the_commonly_asked/

Why aren't there any photos of these things? Shouldn't there be tons of photos and videos? Isn't it all just blurry dots? All genuine photos/videos of UFOs can easily be "debunked" by citing one of 15 expected characteristics or coincidences that should be found in genuine imagery anyway:
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/zi1cgn/while_most_ufo_photos_and_videos_cannot_individually/

Edit 1) fixed Garry Nolan point mention above, differentiating between his claims and my personal speculation. 2) added a few more quotes. 3) fixed wording for accuracy. 4) added 4 more whistleblowers and reworked the Q and A. 5) Removed Bob Emenegger stuff because I don't buy it anymore.

849

.

147

Comments Section

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Here's the thing You can be complete amateur at trying to keep secret. Yet if your audience is gullible mindless mass raised by years of your own propaganda then keeping secret isn't really a problem. Why bother keeping something secret if most of the people can't even comprehend it when it is placed right in front of their faces. Americans like to point out foreign propaganda while they haven't heard the truth since the end of WW2. The only difference, America is a rich country, just like your movies your propaganda has the best special effects. People are glued...

163

PluvioShaman

•

4y ago

What is one to do?

22

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Like most of us here I wish I had an answer. I think this is the part separating us from general population. I'm not sure what it is or where it comes from but there's fairly good amount of people sensing/inkling/feeling toward something deeper..Phenomenon? Definitely but probably bigger hence the secret. Keeping it narrowed to UFOs is what probably was holding us. Us as in general public. CIA and their Russian counter parts running remote viewing is enough to realize there are things being kept Secret. Like mentioned in other thread, The Secret is in the open space. All it takes is to put it together. Back to disclosure. Once the idea reaches and is accepted by 10-15% of population, game is over. Tricky part here is immediate disclosure is not possible (vide global reaction to pandemic or "A person is smart. People are dumb, panicky dangerous animals") because we simply find out Universe/s are infinite. It's highly evolved consciousness slash simulation combo running endlessly..Now who's running it? I believe dropping idea of simulation and consciousness outliving our bodies might be too much. Anyway if it's simulation then I played my share of first Sid Meier's Civilization. If it's reset time then Mayans almost got it right. Hopefully they meant Earth's Magnetic Pole Reversal. Cause if they foresaw us fucking ourselves with pollution and nukes. Well back to the drawing board :P

ps. i blame bourbon and indica for all the blabber :D

ps. If anything, last 2 years of reading books, listening to podcast, reading interesting discussions here mixed with years of dabbling with all kind of psychedelics definitely provided me with more food for soul than any religion. And for that I am thankful :)

40

TheJerminator69

•

4y ago

I guess just feel lucky lol

4

3 more replies

u/speghettiday09 avatar

speghettiday09

•

4y ago

Yep. If your propaganda is good enough the secret keeps itself.

4

2 more replies

DrestinBlack

•

4y ago

So, if I understand this correctly and please do correct me if not, the TL:DR is: since everyone knows our government sucks at keeping complex conspiracies secret for very long, and since many people have said that there is a complex conspiracy in the government to keep the discovery of aliens secret - it almost certainly must be true?

46

2 more replies

WeirdStorms

•

4y ago

"Here is Garry Nolan of Stanford on testing purported UFO debris, which has isotopes consistent with materials that originated outside of our solar system:"

I don't think that Gary is implying that they originated outside the solar

system, rather that the isotope isn't naturally found in our solar system but could be created artificially as with other not naturally found isotopes.

33

15 more replies

u/JUSTfmyshitup avatar

JUSTfmyshitup

•

4y ago

There can be many layers to what people know as well. Maybe a quite large number of people in alphabet agencies know the basics that UFOs exist, but nothing more. Then a much smaller but still significant group know that they also represent some kind of non human intelligence, and that specific cases throughout history were real, but they have no evidence so leaking is pointless.

And then finally a vanishingly small number of people have the 'full picture' whatever that may be, and evidence. All it takes is that small final group to be tightly controlled for the secret to be kept, alongside propaganda to muddy the waters.

7

Utahvikingr

•

4y ago

Incapable of complex conspiracies? Yeah. And Epstein killed himself.

12

2 more replies

[deleted]

•

4y ago

ABC News: "The US government is completely incapable of complex conspiracies.

Omg... That is the dumbest and most factually incorrect statement that ABC News has ever made. Unbelievable.

61

[deleted]

•

4y ago

7 more replies

u/Old_Rise_4086 avatar

Old_Rise_4086

•

4y ago

Quality post my man. Saved.

30

mitch_feaster

•

4y ago

Yep, this is the DD I come here for

7

u/Cosmic_mtnbiker avatar

Cosmic_mtnbiker

•

4y ago

Indeed. Well done!

5

u/TheDewd avatar
TheDewd

•

4y ago

It's actually the opposite. I had no interest in conspiracy theory until I took a class at NYU Law taught by Richard Pildes that was a combination of agency law and legislation. Before I took that class I assumed that the President Learned All The Secrets once he took power. That class had nothing to do with conspiracy theory, but revealed it's very possible with the way government agencies are structured. Some basically answer to no one.

31

Blinky39

•

4y ago

The intelligence community views presidents as transients, opportunists not to be trusted with secrets held for decades. They are there, keeping the secrets. The president will only be there for four to eight years and will be gone so they don't have a "need to know". The thing with classified is there must be an established "need to know" to get access to it. Intelligence officials can say this president doesn't need to know UFO secrets to do their job leading the country. We have to protect the country and our national security so we're not telling them everything we know, or only partial info on it so they have a general idea but not details or the whole picture.

29

Tistouuu

•

4y ago

This is the real conspiracy imo. How to keep the public ignoring about the groups within the gov, that don't answer to anyone.

20

Blinky39

•

4y ago

JFK wanted to end this and paid his life.

20

3 more replies

u/ImpossibleWin7298 avatar
ImpossibleWin7298

•

4y ago

Excellent work, MK. Believe it or not, I'm familiar with all of it, but it's still sort of stunning to see it aggregated like that, and to consider the magnitude of the perfidy.

22

hermit-hamster

•

4y ago

Don't think anyone mentioned it yet, but there is stuff from world war 2 STILL coming out. Hell even the way Turing cracked enigma stayed a secret until the mid 90's. A bunch of stuff about Churchill's deal with the devil type approach to handling Stalin fairly recently came out (I don't have a link right now, just something I recall). But a claim like 'no one can keep secrets' has that tendency to be a low effort way to make its wielder feel superior, like "hey its

common sense! We all know how shitty the government is, right! hohohohoho. What a silly sausage you must be to believe otherwise" * pat pat pat. It has a way of pulling the listener's state of mind from 'heady conspiratorial', to 'matter-of-fact, low-key wiseass'. That makes it very appealing.

8

1 more reply

Pixel-of-Strife

•

4y ago

Great write up. People are eagerly anticipating disclosure, but imo it's already happened for anyone willing to look. They've been telling us this is real since the 1950's. And not just with whistleblowers, but with declassified records. That the OP did more research in an afternoon than ABC journalists did in a lifetime indicates how incompetent they are in general on every subject.

4

imnotabot303

•

4y ago

One thing people in this sub consistently seem to ignore or forget is that the world isn't just the US. For something like aliens visiting earth to be covered up it would involve every government on the planet over several decades covering things up and stopping information getting out. It's an impossible task.

Also there's the subject of trust and confirmation bias. If for example the US government made an announcement tomorrow that alien life was in fact visiting earth many Americans in this sub would instantly believe it, but why? How do you know they are not lying and feeding you propaganda. Sometimes people's confirmation bias dictates what the truth and lies are.

7

u/sixties67 avatar

sixties67

•

4y ago

Thank you for some much needed rationality

6

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

It hasn't really been covered up. Not only are there tons of leaks, all kinds of information has been released. For example, the Twining Memo was made public, which stated UFOs are real. Here is some information about some of the other countries that have released a bunch of their UFO files:

https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/s15kne/is_it_true_that_ufos_can_be_debunked_by_the_fact/hs8bwb3/ The Costa Rican government released a UFO photo in 1971. Italian military pilot Marshal Giancarlo Cecconi photographed a cylindrical UFO from his G-91R aircraft, which was also publicly released. The UK MOD Condign Report basically admitted that UFOs are real, even if they think a lot of them could be explained by strange, not so well known atmospheric phenomena. The Belgian government was quite open about the wave that occurred there in the late 80s, early 90s. I know I'm forgetting a few others.

10

2 more replies

1 more reply

norbertus

•

4y ago

You don't have GLADIO on your list of real conspiracies. It was a secret military force the US organized throughout Europe for 40 years.

Through NATO, the CIA operated a network of clandestine ammo dumps and forward operating bases throughout Europe that were implicated in a string of right-wing terror attacks as late as the 1980's. European heads of state were in the dark as to what uncontrolled branches of their intelligence agencies were doing.

12

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

That was quick. Thanks. You have no idea how much time it took to write that list. I have no doubt there is a ton of information missing from it. I guess that's the point though. There are so many of them, it takes forever to read through it all. I tried to get most of the big ones, but Gladio is one of the many missing examples, and you're not the only person to mention it.

15

2 more replies

Blinky39

•

4y ago

The link from GLADIO to terrorist attacks and false flags is sus as fuck. Half of it is conspiracy theory nonsense not backed by any legit evidence.

5

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

4y ago

That's why this issue was subbed out to contractors - gives the gov plausible deniability

6

u/WillSpur avatar

WillSpur

•

4y ago

And ensure secrecy to maintain their revenue.

3

1 more reply

Nifty_On_50s

•

4y ago

Extremely well put together OP. Please cross post this to r/ufoscience it would be much appreciated.

Also found this quote from your article on the brigadier General who was the one to tell us bodies existed from the roswell crash.

From 1955 to 1960, he was a colonel stationed at the Pentagon. He said he was aware of a UFO controlling committee made up primarily of very high-ranking

military officers and intelligence people. His nickname for this group was "The Unholy Thirteen".

Very interesting the parallel with the alleged Majestic 12 and the "unholy 13" he labels the group as.

Edit: Read more on it and they're not the same group

most surprising revelation was the acknowledgement of an official group that controlled access to the wreckage, bodies, and information about the crash. He referred to them as the Unholy Thirteen, only because he didn't know the actual name of the group. (And, after studying what he said, it seems that the name, Majestic Twelve, does not fit. Majestic Twelve, or MJ-12, was allegedly the group created to study the Roswell material, according to a briefing document released in the late 1980s. There is no evidence that the document is authentic.

6
ScottSierra

•
4y ago
As much as I don't believe that in general, I do think the fact that huge secrets exist (and are kept) doesn't mean things like "the moon landings were faked" could be plausible just because "since people keep secrets, it stands to reason that that's a secret that's just been well-kept."

3

2 more replies
AnimalFarmKeeper

•
4y ago
The fact that the host references Mick West, not a scientist, and with no domain specific expertise, is very telling.

3

[deleted]
•
4y ago
MossyMoose2
•
4y ago
Bravo MK.

Very old and powerful media leaders are scratching tooth and nail to keep this from "causing mass hysteria".

That's the belief of those who are cowering at the truths being acknowledged and experienced by more and more each day.

It won't be long now. You know as well as I do, it's unstoppable at this point.

Loved the Chase Brandon article. He is cousin to Tommy Lee Jones, and was a consultant on the MIB movie, too.

Let that marinate folks.

5
TinFoilHatDude

•
4y ago
If there is one post that deserves to be pinned at the top of the sub, this is it

5
[deleted]

•

4y ago

I'm sorry, clearly I must be missing something here but - how can you publish a list of conspiracies that are manifestly known about because you're telling us about them contradicting the statement "The US government is completely incapable of complex conspiracies..."

Surely this knowledge about the conspiracies it has attempted to maintain is proof your government actually can't keep a secret?

You know about them.

8
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•

4y ago

They didn't keep it a secret though, did they? Look at everything that has come out recently. We know about UFOs, too. And why would you assume these are the only conspiracies that exist? There are so many of them, it demonstrates that conspiring is just human nature. Of course there could be all kinds of other information we don't know about, or that will eventually leak out in the future.

If you ridicule something, you can hide it for decades. Make people afraid to even talk about it.

6
SpinDubTracks

•

4y ago

I think the point of the post is more eluding to how effective suppression of information and ridicule of whistleblowers has been in keeping the topic of UFOs from gaining more widespread serious discussion.

8
u/SirRobertSlim avatar
SirRobertSlim

•

4y ago

They were as unknown at the time they were being run, as the UFO/alien programs are now. And case in point, they eventually leaked and became public.... just as the UFO/alien programs are also leaking, as shown in the link O.P. referenced, and as denied by that "military analyst" disinformation agent on TV.

Mind you, the Air Force is actually the principal military group dealing with this matter and has been since at least the 40s.

The whole interview is a circus. The Air Force psyop agent can be summed up as "Nothing to see here", Elizondo is like a tape recorder with his disingenuous "nobody knows" and "it's evidence of something".

Essentially Elizondo is on an assigned mission to move the narrative forward, but not all at once. Hence he essentially lays out the logical chain of reasoning that can only conclude "aliens", but doesn't say it and dodges it in ridiculously obvious ways.

The other guy is there to maintain the same "we're not up to anything, look away" policy that the Air Force has had for 70+ years. He's a bluebook-style disinformation agent and it is as transparent and obvious as it can get. Just

pay attention to what seems to matter to him. Every sentence out of his mouth is a "we're not guilty" "we are so weak we could never've done it even if we tried" defence of the Air Force. Guilty to the teeth.

The guy even goes as far as to have the audacity to ridicule the "conspiratorial tone"... in typical "little green men" fashion. Whoever is handling this guy, and whoever directs his handler, they are definitely still operating on the same "book" they did 50 years ago.

4
u/sixties67 avatar
sixties67

•
4y ago
I agree it would be impossible to keep a conspiracy that large, involving tens of thousands of people over the course of 75 years. You also have to factor the other governments of the Earth, you couldn't threaten them all to keep quiet.

Look at the Manhattan Project, in total secrecy, under wartime conditions for a relatively short period of time but the Russians found out about it whilst it was going on.

I don't believe the US Govt is in possession of crashed spacecraft or definitive proof of the ETH

2

5 more replies
u/Perry-W-Willis avatar
Perry-W-Willis

•
4y ago
The fact is that the truth leaks out constantly, but gets ignored because of all the sneering directed at it. This allows the secret to hide in plain sight.

4
NapoliDopoli

•
4y ago
"Why does the media try to claim this stuff doesn't happen?" Great question. One reason could be that they have an agenda driven reason to dismiss it. Perhaps they're being directed by those intelligence agencies to dismiss or deride these stories with the intent of getting (most of) the public to ignore it. Or perhaps people in the media are fearful of looking woo woo because for so long the subject was derided and it's become pure cognitive dissonance to ignore these things both by media people and many in the public, to the point where the government essentially admits now that things are violating the laws of physics and nobody cares. I'd call that a success in mass control of public opinion by decades of making that subject seem so ridiculous (the irony being that religions that are thousands of years old still dominate so many peoples worldview and they accept all that without a second thought). Humans are so susceptible to manipulation it is frightening. Case in point, look at public opinion over a myriad of hot button issues over the past few years and look how easily people blindly take a hard position without even thinking through it logically. What the media does regarding UFOs is a microcosm of what they do 24/7/365 on every topic, everything is a means to an end with them, but I'm not sure what end and who is the one pulling the strings.

4
Tistouuu

•
4y ago
It's just socially acceptable, preferable, to dismiss the subject when you are a

journalist. It takes massive balls not to. Ross Coulthart spoke about that in several interviews. There is a HUGE cultural stigma among journalists / the media.

If you seem interested in UFOs, you're ridiculed and sidelined.

5
[deleted]

•
4y ago
Truly an impressive post both for the uninitiated and long-time ufologist. Well done, OP.

4
[deleted]

•
4y ago
Not one evidence here nothing that could not be cgi or fantasy of Humans.

2
Espron

•
3y ago
Just seeing this post for the first time - thank you!

2
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•
3y ago
Anytime. Here are a few documentaries on the coverup if you like docs:

How the CIA and Air Force created the UFO Stigma <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMqtIRM0oHc>

Project Blue Book, the UFO Propaganda Wing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXXeVdMNzmY>

1
u/ImpossibleWin7298 avatar
ImpossibleWin7298

•
4y ago
Check out Project Mockingbird. Richard Dolan has been writing/talking about it for 20+ yrs. It's real and it's revolting. Your IC at work!

5
u/PeterBucci avatar
PeterBucci

•
4y ago
You know about Project Mockingbird (something that happened in 1963 & involved 2 journalists) because the US government publicly told us about it in 2007. The 700-page document that the CIA declassified that year was compiled because the CIA director ordered his agents to report any past or present activities they thought might be inconsistent with the agency's charter!

4
u/ImpossibleWin7298 avatar
ImpossibleWin7298

•

4y ago

What's your point? Dolan was writing/speaking about it well prior to 07.

2

u/Remseeey2907 avatar

Remseeey2907

•

4y ago

Corso said: the government is so vast, that if you leave it alone, it will cover itself up.

3

Tistouuu

•

4y ago

About Alain Juillet, I know who he is, his credentials and his credibility. I've watched him in the French podcast. I'm just not sure he's not talking about things relatively well-known he heard / read elsewhere (in which case he's not a primary source, just repeating, which is not the same thing).

Because nothing he said was actually new : everything he talked about has been told by many other people, in JRE podcasts for example. Basically he was just giving a high altitude overview for people with little knowledge of the subject.

So imo, he's basically repeating, he has not shared anything he had first-hand knowledge about.

He is credible, i get it, but if he's not a primary source, he kinda weakens your list, just saying.

(if I'm a high profile quoting things I've read / heard from others, or in the media, or from people repeating others, it doesn't make my statement a new, powerful declaration and should not be presented as such)

3

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Bravo fuckin bravo

2

u/Kunafahk avatar

Kunafahk

•

4y ago

Good shit right there, Saved!!

2

WillCuckSmith

•

4y ago

If that were true, then Bob Lazar wouldn't be so convincing.

You're right.. they can't hold secrets... thanks to people like Bob.

1

u/thatnameagain avatar

thatnameagain

•

4y ago

The thing that the government is supposedly covering up is a wide scale program to track study and acquire alien materials. Because if the government really did think that all these UAP's did represent that kind of an opportunity, there would be a huge scramble underway to focus on this, and I do not believe you

could keep it secret unless you were keeping it small and ineffective. Also, every world government that owns an airplane would be launching major programs into this. That is what is supposedly being covered up, that people think could not possibly be covered up

I agree, if the governments really thought this, they would not be able to cover it up. Norwood private companies for that matter. If there would be a veritable Gold Rush coming on, but there's not. At best they are taking some tepid steps with small time actors to look into this.

It seems very clear that for whatever reason no major government on earth, as a matter of policy, thinks that UAPs represent anything more serious than an odd phenomenon. Some individuals in the governments may be tearing their hair out trying to get the top policymakers to focus on it but it's clear they have been unsuccessful.

For whatever reason, no major government or company is taking this seriously.

1

u/SirRobertSlim avatar
SirRobertSlim

•

4y ago

Also, every world government that owns an airplane would be launching major programs into this.

You overestimate the geopolitical independence of most states. The US and certain European states have overarching power over this topic, both directly, and also indirectly through NATO. Other spheres of influence, like China, likely also have some form of this.

Tracking UFOs and crashes is not such a difficult job when you already have giant webs of spy satellites wrapped around earth in orbit, monitoring "ICBMs" and "meteors". And when you have a bunch of military on the territories of a bunch of other countries, and leverage over those countries, it is also not difficult to impose jurisdiction over any cases on their soil, with their willing cooperation.

And with the most powerful and resourceful intelligence apparatus in the world, you can fully control the spread of the information, detect any mentions of spontaneous events, deal with witnesses and so on. CIA, NSA and other alphabet soup agencies have all the infrastructure to deal with this already.

It is naive to think that it would be such a visible effort. For the vast majority of time and cases, it would be indistinguishable from typical military-intelligence operations. Even when cleaning up the actual craft, you can still argue that it is a failed experimental craft, if it really comes to that and there are too many eyes looking at you.

A lot of countries are in fact much more open on the subject, still, without crossing "the line", which for now seems to be exclusively reserved for the US to decide on.

5

2 more replies
[deleted]

•

4y ago

this dude fucks

1

[deleted]

•
4y ago
Well said and comprehensive. Thanks

1
paladore420

•
4y ago
Where's the tldr

1
DigitalScythious

•
4y ago
The intelligence agencies control the media thru Project Mockingbird.

What are your thoughts on the Secret Space Program? The only evidence I can think of is the hacker from the UK who hacked NASA to obtain evidence of free energy. He instead found a folder on Solar Warden. SSP abductees say SW formed in space from breakaway factions of several SSP programs.

1
u/okfornothing avatar
okfornothing

•
4y ago
What's crazy too is how they are able to perpetuate these policies generation after generation. Also from government to government all around the globe.

And from basically citizen to citizen around the globe believing their lies. It's astonishing.

1
[deleted]

•
4y ago
I'm amazed how many people think no aspect of the Government could be good at holding secrets. You guys genuinely believe that the public is aware of every single thing that happens behind closed doors?

This post shares plenty of details about times when information came out, but it doesn't mean that we know everything. I'm absolutely positive CIA, FBI, NSA, NORAD, HAARP, DARPA, the Whitehouse, Pentagon all have information that we don't have access to.

If you believe that they can't possibly keep finding something from outside of this world a secret, you must also believe that these agencies can't keep any secrets, and the public has access to all the same information they have. I doubt it.

1
deathbythroatpunch

•
4y ago
This is 100% right. There's no way over decades such a juicy complex secret could be kept out of public knowledge. Further, once you learn about space and how absolutely insanely large it is...there's little chance another alien race would even find us.

0
u/koebelin avatar
koebelin

•

4y ago

But we ourselves can now find exoplanets, at least 5000 now, and the James Webb Telescope may be able to detect biosignatures and technosignatures.

In space, nothing is blocking your view. They can see us. 18% oxygen atmosphere with carbon dioxide? They have known there is active biology here for an eternity.

3

2 more replies

u/koebelin avatar

koebelin

•

4y ago

The real secrets are kept by special private contractors, they aren't including the civil servants. They work only with very elite military who can keep secrets, some of whom may be human hybrids.

0

[deleted]

•

4y ago

im_alive

•

4y ago

Two words: Compartmentalized Projects.

I'm out, also Fuck Elizondo.

-1

Balance916

•

4y ago

Compartmentalized information

0

SubXenith

•

4y ago

They aren't the ones keeping the secret.

0

[deleted]

•

4y ago

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Great thread 🍌

0

Hipsterkicks

•

4y ago

Excellent..thanks for this!!!

0

[deleted]

•

4y ago

nice post, thanks for the info!

0

scrappybasket

•

4y ago

Lol thank you i've been screaming this at the TV for a while now

0

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Military Industrial Complex. Things have been so compartmentalized that Washington doesn't know about it.

0

ivXtreme

•

4y ago

Well the government is known to have participated in misinformation about UFOs for 70 years. With so much bullshit out there, even if some story was real, how would you know which one was the real one? They've done so much damage nobody believes anything anymore.

0

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

I would say that we can usually tell by just looking at the claims themselves. We can assume that this would leak out no matter what because it's a massive conspiracy with tons of people involved who disagree with the secrecy. So we should expect a large body of leaks.

If the government involved itself in there somewhere, they probably aren't going to waste their time creating a very credible whistleblower who doesn't get much publicity at all. It's going to be a "whistleblower" who gets a bunch of publicity and discredits themselves and embarrasses others involved, or maybe it will make claims about the technology involved that lead to nowhere. I'm not alleging that Bob Lazar is an agent, but I'm picturing something that looks exactly like what happened with Lazar: claims that are verifiably false, discrediting the whole thing, and technology claims that probably were designed to fool other intelligence agencies in other countries trying to study this. Maybe Bob Lazar was used and didn't realize it. He got the most publicity out of all of them after all.

They might also try to involve themselves in actual whistleblowers as well by befriending them and trying to divert them as best as they can, such as by making false claims and hoping the target repeats them, discrediting the target.

I think for the most part, this large body of whistleblowers is basically accurately reflecting what is really going on. You've got a few of these outliers scattered in there though, but if the story sounds too outlandish, or they make specific claims about the technology, you could just ignore it.

1

Prestigious-Lock7321

•

4y ago

The picture of the triangle UFO link will not load no matter what I do. Can someone mirror the pic or post it to here plz?

1

u/foolsdie_5 avatar
foolsdie_5

•

4y ago

The fact that there are tens of thousands of government documents on this topic should make it rather obvious that it isn't a conspiracy theory. Are there tens of thousands of government documents on lizard people? Bigfoot? Hollow earth? Vampires? Ghosts? Arctic underground Nazi bases?

Tens of thousands, probably hundreds of thousands of pages on the topic of UFOs that have been leaked or FOIA'd or declassified. Imagine what hasn't been.

If it were a conspiracy theory, then the government has wasted decades, and hundreds of millions of dollars chasing it, without seemingly ever having been taken to task for it.

The idea that it is a conspiracy theory is hilarious at this point.

60

Theophilus84

•

4y ago

Guys...

I'm NOT completely dismissing UFOs with this statement.

However, how long is it gonna take for people...THINKING people (like yourselves) with open minds to admit that government doesn't leak anything unless they want you to know it? I mean seriously? I'm afraid that what people do when they have a specific worldview (in this case, believing in UFOs) that we see everything through a preferential lens. I believe there is something. I'm a Christian guy, which comes with its own worldview that unfortunately means most Christians just DENY anything seen. One of the greatest preachers in human history prior to mass sightings, Charles Spurgeon, commented that God could have "untold" worlds and has no obligation to tell us. Either way, I'm afraid people that are deep in UFO culture refuse to believe that it is possible that certain authorities use the popular narrative and phenomena to manipulate. This includes "leaks".

My basis for the objection and question is that an ENORMOUS amount of "official narrative" in EVERY category is false. Name an event in modern history. Any event. The official narrative is bananas. I assume MOST of you would believe that, given what you believe about UFOs. Now that the "official narrative" includes UFOs we assume that it's just disclosure?

I don't know, y'all. Better keep that skeptical eye trained.

1

Money_Bonus

•

4y ago

That's such a lie. Anyone that has worked in special units of the government, especially special forces, can keep secrets and have. There's a lot in regard to war and military conflicts that the public will never know. If that can be kept secret other things can as well

1

FundamentalEnt

•

4y ago

Haha thank you my friend. NDAs are a bitch and throwing your life away to be called crazy is not something I personally could do.

1

u/SnooCookies2666 avatar
SnooCookies2666

•

4y ago

It has leaked, it's just that the disinformation and peoples skepticism have denied acceptance.

1

canering

•

4y ago

This reminds me of "if aliens were real trump would have told us" like you think trump is intellectually curious enough to inquire about aliens

1

[deleted]

•

4y ago

The gubment isn't but the private sector? Check-mate.

1

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Thank you for putting all this together.

1

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds

r/UFOs - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs,

poll finds

796 upvotes · 130 comments

Why US government would create thousands of fake documents about Majestic 12 and recovery of alien spacecraft just to fool small group of ufologists and publish it through 7 different sources in the span of 33 years?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Why US government would create thousands of fake documents about Majestic 12 and recovery of alien spacecraft just to fool small group of ufologists and publish it through 7 different sources in the span of 33 years?

504 upvotes · 95 comments

The New Yorker - In depth article about UFOs - "What's the Deal with U.F.O.s?

Scientists consider whether we've been visited by aliens or their technology".

The author puts the odds of UFOs being alien visitors at 5%, and argues that people who put the odds higher should not be ridiculed.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

The New Yorker - In depth article about UFOs - "What's the Deal with U.F.O.s? Scientists consider whether we've been visited by aliens or their technology". The author puts the odds of UFOs being alien visitors at 5%, and argues that people who put the odds higher should not be ridiculed.

r/UFOs - The New Yorker - In depth article about UFOs - "What's the Deal with U.F.O.s? Scientists consider whether we've been visited by aliens or their technology". The author puts the odds of UFOs being alien visitors at 5%, and argues that people who put the odds higher should not be ridiculed.

newyorker

246 upvotes · 112 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

220 upvotes · 218 comments

'The public has been lied to': secretly made documentary insists that aliens exist | Documentary films

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

'The public has been lied to': secretly made documentary insists that aliens exist | Documentary films

r/UFOs - 'The public has been lied to': secretly made documentary insists that aliens exist | Documentary films

theguardian

1.3K upvotes · 180 comments

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

914 upvotes · 408 comments

A highly classified Air Force report from 1948 titled "Estimate of the Situation" which concluded that UFOs were likely EXTRATERRESTRIAL in origin is about to be made public for the first time by National Archives.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

A highly classified Air Force report from 1948 titled "Estimate of the Situation" which concluded that UFOs were likely EXTRATERRESTRIAL in origin is about to be made public for the first time by National Archives.

r/UFOs - A highly classified Air Force report from 1948 titled "Estimate of the Situation" which concluded that UFOs were likely EXTRATERRESTRIAL in origin is about to be made public for the first time by National Archives.

1.1K upvotes · 70 comments

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs - There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

489 upvotes · 70 comments

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs - The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

918 upvotes · 99 comments

NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

r/UFOs - NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

472 upvotes · 52 comments

USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

21d ago

USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

r/UFOs - USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

4

780 upvotes · 34 comments

DoE is rumored to have a lot of UFO documents and info. Anyone with an

outstanding FOIA request should probably know this.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

DoE is rumored to have a lot of UFO documents and info. Anyone with an outstanding FOIA request should probably know this.

230 upvotes · 24 comments

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

25d ago

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

128 upvotes · 179 comments

Exposing the Government's Longstanding Campaign of UFO/UAP Disinformation | Take Action Today!

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Exposing the Government's Longstanding Campaign of UFO/UAP Disinformation | Take Action Today!

r/UFOs - Exposing the Government's Longstanding Campaign of UFO/UAP Disinformation | Take Action Today!

183 upvotes · 22 comments

Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

r/UFOs - Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

529 upvotes · 88 comments

Former nuclear security officer remembers how everything got quieter as a UFO flew above: "As it approached and came over us, it actually deadened sound wherever it moved... Almost like when you stick your head underwater... As soon as it was clear of us, that's when sound returned..."

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Former nuclear security officer remembers how everything got quieter as a UFO flew above: "As it approached and came over us, it actually deadened sound wherever it moved... Almost like when you stick your head underwater... As soon as it was clear of us, that's when sound returned..."

596 upvotes · 66 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

311 upvotes · 28 comments

Leaked emails: Australia receiving UFO briefings for years, despite top brass denial

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

Leaked emails: Australia receiving UFO briefings for years, despite top brass denial

r/UFOs - Leaked emails: Australia receiving UFO briefings for years, despite top brass denial
com

1.5K upvotes · 85 comments

UFO whistleblower claims Trump was 'fully briefed' on evidence of non-human intelligence

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

22d ago

UFO whistleblower claims Trump was 'fully briefed' on evidence of non-human intelligence

r/UFOs - UFO whistleblower claims Trump was 'fully briefed' on evidence of non-human intelligence

co

1.1K upvotes · 127 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8d ago

Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

r/UFOs - Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

unredacted

506 upvotes · 31 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9d ago

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

14 upvotes · 47 comments

Academic Hit Job: How Researchers Twisted Facts to Discredit UFO Research -

"What appears at first glance to be a scholarly analysis quickly reveals itself as an exercise in academic gatekeeping, where legitimate questions about unexplained aerial phenomena are casually dismissed as mere conspiracy"

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9mo ago

Academic Hit Job: How Researchers Twisted Facts to Discredit UFO Research -

"What appears at first glance to be a scholarly analysis quickly reveals itself as an exercise in academic gatekeeping, where legitimate questions about unexplained aerial phenomena are casually dismissed as mere conspiracy"

r/UFOs - Academic Hit Job: How Researchers Twisted Facts to Discredit UFO Research - "What appears at first glance to be a scholarly analysis quickly reveals itself as an exercise in academic gatekeeping, where legitimate questions about unexplained aerial phenomena are casually dismissed as mere conspiracy"

132 upvotes · 33 comments

UFO Researchers Accuse NASA of Hiding Evidence of Alien Life

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

UFO Researchers Accuse NASA of Hiding Evidence of Alien Life

r/UFOs - UFO Researchers Accuse NASA of Hiding Evidence of Alien Life

co

619 upvotes · 49 comments

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 23, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

r/conspiracy Wiki: A Comprehensive Guide to Proven Conspiracies

Open menu

r/conspiracy

Search in r/conspiracy

Log In

Expand user menu

r/conspiracy icon

r/conspiracy

Join

r/conspiracy

lopc

Open menu

List of Proven Conspiracies

This compilation of facts is the result of the /r/conspiracy community's efforts over the years to distribute information between ourselves. Many users contributed to this list, some unknowingly. This list will be constantly updated as new information is discovered. Everything has been roughly placed into categories for easier reading.

If you were looking for a post to share with others outside of this community (friends, family, strangers) to show them the overwhelming amount of conspiracy facts out there, please share this post. While reviewing this, keep in mind that some conspiracies had underlying good intentions, or the participants believed it was the only option they had. And many of them, even if unethical, were conducted by only a relatively small number of individuals within the organization they were a part of, and this list does not include all of the good things such organizations have done because it would be far too long to list, so this should be read only as interesting historical information, not necessarily always to cast a bad light on the agency, country, or corporation involved.

Enjoy!

Human experimentation and medical malpractice:

MKULTRA: <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/09/758989641/the-cias-secret-quest-for-mind-control-torture-ld-and-a-poisoner-in-chief> (<http://archive.is/xTFXu>)

"U.S. Admits Bio-Weapons Tests- The tests included releasing deadly nerve agents in Alaska and spraying bacteria over Hawaii, according to the documents obtained Tuesday. The United States also tested nerve agents in Canada and Britain in conjunction with those two countries, and biological and chemical weapons in at least two other states, Maryland and Florida. The Pentagon released records earlier this year showing that chemical and biological agents had been sprayed on ships at sea. The military reimbursed ranchers and agreed to stop open-air nerve agent testing at its main chemical weapons center in the Utah desert after about 6,400 sheep died when nerve gas drifted away from the test range... Earlier this year, the Defense Department acknowledged for the first time that some of the 1960s tests used real chemical and biological weapons, not just benign stand-ins... Some of those involved in the tests say they now suffer health problems linked to their exposure to dangerous chemicals and germs. The Defense Department has identified nearly 3,000 soldiers involved in tests disclosed earlier, but the VA has sent letters to fewer than half of them. VA and Pentagon officials acknowledged at a July hearing that finding the soldiers has been difficult." <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-admits-bio-weapons-tests/> (<https://archive.is/8tAQX>)

"Three members of Congress are demanding answers after a St. Louis scholar's new book revealed details of secret Cold War-era U.S. government testing in which countless unsuspecting people, including many children, pregnant women and minorities, were fed, sprayed or injected with radiation and other dangerous materials... St. Louis leaders were told at the time that the government was testing a smoke screen that could shield the city from aerial observation in case of Soviet attack. Evidence now shows radioactive material, not just zinc cadmium sulfide, was part of that spraying, Martino-Taylor said." <https://apnews.com/4da06e584a614035afc8d20e4416bbda> ... <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-bc-us--cold-war-human-testing-20171002-story.html> (<http://archive.is/W0C7C>) (<http://archive.is/FpaXN>)

"A government report provides for the first time a comprehensive official history of Britain's biological weapons trials between 1940 and 1979. The 60-page report reveals new information about more than 100 covert experiments. Between 1955 and 1963 planes flew from north-east England to the tip of Cornwall along the south and west coasts, dropping huge amounts of zinc cadmium sulphide on the population. The report also reveals details of the DICE trials in south Dorset between 1971 and 1975. These involved US and UK military scientists spraying into the air massive quantities of *serratia marcescens* bacteria, with an anthrax simulant and phenol. Between 1961 and 1968 more than a million people along the south coast of England, from Torquay to the New Forest, were exposed to bacteria including *e.coli* and *bacillus globigii*." <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2002/apr/21/uk.medicalscience> (<http://archive.is/4nxNI>)

In the mid-1950s, and again a decade later, the Army used motorized blowers atop a low-income housing high-rise, at schools and from the backs of station wagons to send zinc cadmium sulfide into the already-hazy air in predominantly black areas of St. Louis. Local officials were told at the time that the government was testing a smoke screen that could shield St. Louis from aerial observation in case the Russians attacked. But in 1994, the government said the tests were part of a biological weapons program and St. Louis was chosen because it bore some resemblance to Russian cities that the U.S. might attack. The material being sprayed was zinc cadmium sulfide, a fine fluorescent powder.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/secret-cold-war-tests-in-st-louis-cause-worry/>
(<https://archive.is/1mXXA>)

Government tested AIDS drugs on foster kids. Children not provided with basic legal protection, review finds. Government-funded researchers tested AIDS drugs on hundreds of foster children over the past two decades, often without providing them a basic protection afforded in federal law and required by some states, an Associated Press review has found. The research funded by the National Institutes of Health spanned the country. It was most widespread in the 1990s as foster care agencies sought treatments for their HIV-infected children that weren't yet available in the marketplace. The research was conducted in at least seven states – Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Colorado and Texas – and involved more than four dozen different studies. The foster children ranged from infants to late teens, according to interviews and government records.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/7736157/ns/health-aids/t/government-tested-aids-drugs-foster-kids/#fullstory> (<https://archive.is/Hp84K>)

New York's HIV experiment- HIV positive children and their loved ones have few rights if they choose to battle with social work authorities in New York City. Jacklyn Hoerger's job was to treat children with HIV at a New York children's home. But nobody had told her that the drugs she was administering were experimental and highly toxic. "We were told that if they were vomiting, if they lost their ability to walk, if they were having diarrhoea, if they were dying, then all of this was because of their HIV infection." In fact it was the drugs that were making the children ill and the children had been enrolled on the secret trials without their relatives' or guardians' knowledge. As Jacklyn would later discover, those who tried to take the children off the drugs risked losing them into care. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/this_world/4038375.stm
(<http://archive.is/jJwL9>)

"Over and over again, the military has conducted dangerous biowarfare experiments on Americans. <http://www.businessinsider.com/military-government-secret-experiments-biological-chemical-weapons-2016-9> (<http://archive.is/Za5UX>)

The U.S. Army recently released logs of thousands of experiments conducted at Dugway Proving Ground dating back to the Cold War, providing a glimpse at what the highly secure testing facility has been up to. Some military tests involved human exposure to biological and chemical agents. "They loaded up mosquitos with what they said was an inert disease, an inert bacteria, an inert virus and actually released that on civilian populations in the United States," he said. <https://fox13now.com/2016/05/12/a-rare-look-at-dugways-experiments-then-and-now/>
([archive](#))

From a news report in 1977: "The Army disclosed yesterday that it secretly conducted 239 germ warfare tests in open air between 1949 and 1969, some tests releasing live but supposedly harmless microscopic "bugs" at Washington's Greyhound bus terminal and National Airport as part of the experiment. The idea, according to a two-volume report the Army gave to the senate health subcommittee yesterday, was to learn how to wage biological warfare and defend against it... Washington was one of five cities where the Army released simulated lethal germs in public places. Other cities where the public served as unknowing guinea pigs were New York, San Francisco, Key West and panama City, Fla. All told, the Army listed 27 times that it tested simulated toxins on public property, including releasing spores in two tunnels on a stretch of Pennsylvania Turnpike. In

addition to those experiments in public places, the Army secretary used military personnel and their families for open air experiments by spraying simulated germs into the air at a number of bases, including Fort Detrick, Md.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; and the Marine training school at Quantico, Va."
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1977/03/09/army-conducted-239-secret-open-air-germ-warfare-tests/b17e5ee7-3006-4152-acf3-0ad163e17a22/>
(<https://archive.fo/SSdWl>)

U.S. secretly tested carcinogen in Western Canada during the Cold War, researcher finds. The Pentagon never told the Canadian government that it would be spraying a chemical on Winnipeg and two Alberta towns.
<http://nationalpost.com/news/canada/u-s-secretly-tested-carcinogen-in-western-canada-during-the-cold-war-researcher-discovers> (<http://archive.is/vUyb4>)

Operation LAC (Large Area Coverage) was a U.S. Army Chemical Corps operation which dispersed microscopic zinc cadmium sulfide (ZnCdS) particles over much of the United States. The purpose was to determine the dispersion and geographic range of biological or chemical agents. Principally, the operation involved spraying large areas with zinc cadmium sulfide.[2] The U.S. Air Force loaned the Army a C-119, "Flying Boxcar", and it was used to disperse zinc cadmium sulfide by the ton in the atmosphere over the United States.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_LAC (<http://archive.is/smWSp>)

From 1955 to 1972, Army doctors gave soldier 'volunteers' synthetic marijuana, LSD and two dozen other psychoactive drugs during experiments aimed at developing chemical weapons that could incapacitate enemy soldiers.
https://www.wired.com/2007/04/the_secrets_of_/ (<http://archive.is/UYYwk>)

"Beginning on September 26, 1950, the crew of a U.S. Navy minesweeper ship spent six days spraying *Serratia marcescens* into the air about two miles off the northern California coast. The project was called "Operation Sea Spray," and its aim was to determine the susceptibility of a big city like San Francisco to a bioweapon attack by terrorists. In the following days, the military took samples at 43 sites to track the bacteria's spread, and found that it had quickly infested not only the city but surrounding suburbs as well. During the test, residents of these areas would have inhaled millions of bacterial spores...But there was a catch. At the time, the US military thought that *Serratia* couldn't harm humans. The bug was mostly known for the red spots it produced on infested foods and had not been widely linked to clinical conditions. That changed when one week after the test, 11 local residents checked into a Stanford University Hospital complaining of urinary tract infections...One patient, a man named Edward Nevin who was recovering from prostate surgery, died, and some have suggested that the release forever changed the area's microbial ecology."
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/1950-us-released-bioweapon-san-francisco-180955819/> (<https://archive.is/m8RM2>)

'Operation Delirium:' Psychochemicals And Cold War - "Throughout the 1950s and '60s, at the now-crumbling Edgewood Arsenal by the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, military doctors tested the effects of nerve gas, LSD and other drugs on 5,000 U.S. soldiers to gauge the effects on their brain and behavior."
<https://www.npr.org/2012/12/11/166891159/operation-delirium-psychochemicals-and-cold-war> (archive.org) (documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1GAaWy3HTw>)

From 1963 to 1966, Saul Krugman of New York University promised the parents of mentally disabled children that their children would be enrolled into Willowbrook in exchange for signing a consent form for procedures that he claimed were "vaccinations." In reality, the procedures involved deliberately infecting children with viral hepatitis by feeding them an extract made from the feces of patients infected with the disease
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unethical_human_experimentation_in_the_United_States#1950s

Immediately after World War II, researchers at Vanderbilt University gave 829

pregnant mothers in Tennessee what they were told were "vitamin drinks" that would improve the health of their babies. The mixtures contained radioactive iron and the researchers were determining how fast the radioisotope crossed into the placenta. At least three children are known to have died from the experiments, from cancers and leukemia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unethical_human_experimentation_in_the_United_States#Experiments_involving_other_radioactive_materials

The Fernald School for the "feeble minded" was part of America's Eugenics movement, and the children there performed most manual labor, including cutting up the brains of mentally disabled people for scientific study. The boys were also given radioactive oatmeal in a study for Quaker Oats.
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/americas-deep-dark-secret/> (<http://archive.is/LGVFv>)

The Imperial Japanese Army's notorious medical research team carried out secret human experiments regarded as some of the worst war crimes in history. Its scientists subjected more than 10,000 people per year to grotesque Josef Mengele-style torture in the name of science, including captured Russian soldiers and downed American aircrews. The experiments included hanging people upside down until they choked, burying them alive, injecting air into their veins and placing them in high-pressure chambers.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/7236099/Human-bones-could-reveal-truth-of-Japans-Unit-731-experiments.html> (<http://archive.is/hojxN>)

Israel has admitted for the first time that it has been giving Ethiopian Jewish immigrants birth-control injections, often without their knowledge or consent. "They [medical staff] told us they are inoculations. We took it every three months. We said we didn't want to."
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israel-gave-birth-control-to-ethiopian-jews-without-their-consent-8468800.html> (<http://archive.is/mE8vG>)

Guatemala syphilis experiment: American medical research project that lasted from 1946 to 1948 and is known for its unethical experimentation on vulnerable human populations in Guatemala. The Guatemala experiments remained a largely unknown event in U.S. medical history until the early 2000s. The total study population included more than 5,500 Guatemalan prisoners, sex workers, soldiers, children, and psychiatric patients, about one-quarter of whom were deliberately infected with syphilis, gonorrhea, or chancroid and all of whom were enrolled in the experiments without their consent. Among the most controversial methods used was "normal exposure," in which sex workers infected with syphilis were used to transmit the disease to unsuspecting prisoners. Approximately 1,308 soldiers, prisoners, sex workers, and psychiatric patients, ranging from age 10 to 72, were intentionally exposed to STDs during the study. Syphilis exposure occurred through inoculation of the cervix in sex workers; through injection or direct sexual contact with infected sex workers in prisoners; and through injection, inoculation (via abrasion) of the penis, cisternal puncture (the insertion of a needle below the occipital bone at the back of the skull to access cerebrospinal fluid), or oral ingestion in psychiatric patients. Exposure to gonorrhea was carried out in sex workers through cervical inoculation and in Guatemalan soldiers through sexual contact with the sex workers and sometimes through urethral inoculation. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Guatemala-syphilis-experiment> (<http://archive.is/80mW9>)

Tuskegee syphilis experiment an infamous clinical study conducted between 1932 and 1972 by the U.S. Public Health Service. The purpose of this study was to observe the natural progression of untreated syphilis in rural African-American men in Alabama under the guise of receiving free health care from the United States government. The Public Health Service started working on this study in 1932 in collaboration with Tuskegee University, a historically black college in Alabama. Investigators enrolled in the study a total of 622 impoverished, African-American sharecroppers from Macon County, Alabama. Of these men, 431 had previously contracted syphilis before the study began, and 169[3] did not have the disease. The men were given free medical care, meals, and free burial insurance for participating in the study. The men were told that the study was

only going to last six months, but it actually lasted 40 years.[4] After funding for treatment was lost, the study was continued without informing the men that they would never be treated. None of the men infected were ever told that they had the disease, and none were treated with penicillin even after the antibiotic was proven to successfully treat syphilis. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the men were told that they were being treated for "bad blood", a colloquialism that described various conditions such as syphilis, anemia, and fatigue. "Bad blood"—specifically the collection of illnesses the term included—was a leading cause of death within the southern African-American community.[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuskegee_syphilis_experiment (<http://archive.is/xGIQp>)

Israel harvested organs from dead Palestinians in the 90's without the consent of the families. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/dec/21/israeli-pathologists-harvested-organs> (<http://archive.is/s85VA>)

COINTELPRO:

COINTELPRO (1956–1971) was a series of covert, and at times illegal, projects conducted by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting domestic political organizations. FBI records show that COINTELPRO resources targeted groups and individuals that the FBI deemed subversive, including feminist organizations, the Communist Party USA, anti-Vietnam War organizers, activists of the civil rights movement or Black Power movement (e.g. Martin Luther King Jr., the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panther Party), environmentalist and animal rights organizations, the American Indian Movement (AIM), independence movements (such as Puerto Rican independence groups like the Young Lords), and a variety of organizations that were part of the broader New Left. The program also targeted the Ku Klux Klan in 1964. According to Noam Chomsky, in another instance in San Diego, the FBI financed, armed, and controlled an extreme right-wing group of former members of the Minutemen anti-communist para-military organization, transforming it into a group called the Secret Army Organization that targeted groups, activists, and leaders involved in the Anti-War Movement, using both intimidation and violent acts. The FBI has used covert operations against domestic political groups since its inception; however, covert operations under the official COINTELPRO label took place between 1956 and 1971. COINTELPRO tactics are still used to this day, and have been alleged to include discrediting targets through psychological warfare; smearing individuals and groups using forged documents and by planting false reports in the media; harassment; wrongful imprisonment; and illegal violence, including assassination. The FBI's stated motivation was "protecting national security, preventing violence, and maintaining the existing social and political order." Beginning in 1969, leaders of the Black Panther Party were targeted by the COINTELPRO and "neutralized" by being assassinated, imprisoned, publicly humiliated or falsely charged with crimes. Some of the Black Panthers affected included Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, Zayd Shakur, Geronimo Pratt, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Marshall Conway. Common tactics used by COINTELPRO were perjury, witness harassment, witness intimidation, and withholding of evidence. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COINTELPRO> (Here's a documentary)

The Black Panther Coloring Book was an example of a psychological operation by the FBI to discredit the Black Panthers. They created and distributed a coloring book claiming to come from the Black panthers. "It was a (somewhat effective) effort to discredit the Panthers as any sort of valid political movement and reinforce the opinion already held by a lot of white people at the time, that Huey P. Newton and his organization were psychotic militants who killed white people and cops indiscriminately." <https://www.vice.com/read/coloring-the-black-panthers> (<http://archive.is/XLvXS>)

There are teams of people in Intel Agencies who describe themselves as "Internet Magicians" who perform "online covert operations" on the public, including the use of "false flag operations" and posting negative information to forums in order to discredit targets. In other words, internet skills, but that's just the

beginning. Numerous countries openly admit to internet shilling, and some corporations have been caught. Here are nearly 100 citations on this topic: https://np.reddit.com/r/shills/comments/4kdq7n/astroturfing_information_megathread_revision_8/

Revealed: how the FBI coordinated the crackdown on Occupy - "New documents show that the violent crackdown on Occupy last fall - so mystifying at the time - was not just coordinated at the level of the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and local police. The crackdown, which involved, as you may recall, violent arrests, group disruption, canister missiles to the skulls of protesters, people held in handcuffs so tight they were injured, people held in bondage till they were forced to wet or soil themselves -was coordinated with the big banks themselves. The documents show a nationwide meta-plot unfolding in city after city: six American universities are sites where campus police funneled information about students involved with OWS to the FBI, with the administrations' knowledge (p51); banks sat down with FBI officials to pool information about OWS protesters harvested by private security; plans to crush Occupy events, planned for a month down the road, were made by the FBI - and offered to the representatives of the same organizations that the protests would target; and even threats of the assassination of OWS leaders by sniper fire - by whom? Where? - now remain redacted and undisclosed to those American citizens in danger, contrary to standard FBI practice to inform the person concerned when there is a threat against a political leader (p61). As Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, executive director of the PCJF, put it, the documents show that from the start, the FBI - though it acknowledges Occupy movement as being, in fact, a peaceful organization - nonetheless designated OWS repeatedly as a "terrorist threat." <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/dec/29/fbi-coordinated-crackdown-occupy> (<http://archive.is/uP1J2>)

Inside the secret world of the corporate spies who infiltrate protests - Major firms hiring people from corporate security firms to monitor and infiltrate political groups that object to their commercial activities. "The leaked documents suggest that corporate security firms frequently run espionage operations to gather information on protesters, including infiltrating private meetings and obtaining internal documents. However, they are subject to little or no regulation. This has attracted criticism from police, who have in the past called the deployment of corporate spies "completely uncontrolled and unrestrained". Since 1968, the police have sent more than 140 undercover officers to spy on over 1,000 political groups. However, senior officers have claimed that there have been more corporate spies embedded in protest groups than police officers. Critics say the security firms are spying on law-abiding campaigners and impeding their democratic rights. The Guardian has spoken to a man who claimed that he had infiltrated political groups for a corporate espionage firm. He declined to give his name or say which groups he had spied on. He described how the spies surreptitiously fostered conflicts within a campaign to set activists against each other, in order to wear them down and make them lose their political motivation. "People get tired of it, that's their weakness," he said." <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/12/inside-the-secret-world-of-the-corporate-spies-who-infiltrate-protests> (<http://archive.is/1qNKE>)

"Undercover police officers who adopted fake identities in deployments lasting several years spied on more than 1,000 political groups, a judge-led public inquiry has said. It is the first time that the number of political groups infiltrated by the undercover spies over more than four decades has been made public. The list of groups that were infiltrated has not been published by the inquiry. However, it is known to include environmental, anti-racist and animal rights groups, leftwing parties and the far right. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jul/27/undercover-police-spied-on-more-than-1000-political-groups-in-uk> (<http://archive.is/Pz3iH>)

A former Marine working for the private security firm TigerSwan infiltrated an array of anti-Dakota Access pipeline groups at Standing Rock and beyond. <https://theintercept.com/2018/12/30/tigerswan-infiltrator-dakota-access->

pipeline-standing-rock/ (<http://archive.is/6BCD6>)

"Quebec provincial police admitted Thursday that three of their officers disguised themselves as demonstrators during the protest at the North American leaders summit in Montebello, Que. Police came under fire Tuesday, when a video surfaced on YouTube that appeared to show three plainclothes police officers at the protest with bandanas across their faces. One of the men was carrying a rock. In the video, protest organizers in suits order the men to put the rock down, call them police instigators and try unsuccessfully to unmask them. However, the police force denied allegations its undercover officers were there on Monday to provoke the crowd and instigate violence."
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/quebec-police-admit-they-went-undercover-at-montebello-protest-1.656171> (<http://archive.is/Buxgz>)

Fake online personas, government and corporate disinformation:

"Revealed: the hacking and disinformation team meddling in elections," undercover investigation by The Guardian <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uhe0ilps2zQ>

British army creates team of Facebook warriors <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jan/31/british-army-facebook-warriors-77th-brigade>

US military studied how to influence Twitter users in Darpa-funded research [2014] <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/08/darpa-social-networks-research-twitter-influence-studies>

The Environmental Protection Agency engaged in "covert propaganda" and violated federal law when it blitzed social media to urge the public to back an Obama administration rule intended to better protect the nation's streams and surface waters, congressional auditors have concluded.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/15/us/politics/epa-broke-the-law-by-using-social-media-to-push-water-rule-auditor-finds.html>

"Project Lakhta was a Russian influence campaign that had no particular ideological bent; it appears that the goal was simply to stir up conflict in online political debates by putting forth extreme arguments and inflammatory misinformation to incense both liberals and conservatives."
<https://slate.com/technology/2018/10/what-we-know-about-the-russian-woman-whom-the-u-s-just-charged-for-meddling-in-the-midterms.html>

The Secret Agenda of a Facebook Quiz (Cambridge Analytica)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/20/opinion/the-secret-agenda-of-a-facebook-quiz.html>

"Hundreds of people work at a so-called troll farm in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to smother the voices of dissidents like Mr. Khashoggi."
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/20/us/politics/saudi-image-campaign-twitter.html>

Facebook announces first takedown of influence campaign with ties to Saudi government <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/01/tech/facebook-saudi-arabia-pages-removed/index.html>

Israeli government paying bilingual students to spread propaganda online primarily to international communities without having to identify themselves as working for the government. "The [student] union will operate computer rooms for the project...it was decided to establish a permanent structure of activity on the Internet through the students at academic institutions in the country."
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/pmo-stealthily-recruiting-students-for-online-advocacy/>

Leaked Documents Reveal Counterterrorism Tactics Used at Standing Rock to "Defeat Pipeline Insurgencies." TigerSwan attempted a counterinformation campaign by creating and distributing content critical of the protests on social

media. <https://theintercept.com/2017/05/27/leaked-documents-reveal-security-firms-counterterrorism-tactics-at-standing-rock-to-defeat-pipeline-insurgencies/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psy-Group>

Israeli Army Conducted Online Psy-op Against Israeli Public During Gaza War
<https://web.archive.org/web/20230420020546/https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/security-aviation/2023-03-22/ty-article-magazine/.premium/israeli-army-conducted-online-psy-op-against-israeli-public-during-gaza-war/00000186-f972-df90-a19e-f9fff22a0000>

The Rise of the Net Center. How an Army of Trolls Protects Guatemala's Corrupt Elite. <https://theintercept.com/2018/04/07/guatemala-anti-corruption-trolls-smear-campaign/>

Massive British PR firm caught on video: "We've got all sorts of dark arts...The ambition is to drown that negative content and make sure that you have positive content online." They discuss techniques for managing reputations online and creating/maintaining 3rd-party blogs that seem independent.
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/caught-on-camera-top-lobbyists-boasting-how-they-influence-the-pm-6272760.html>

Vietnam admits deploying bloggers to support the Communist Party's policies, operates a network of nearly 1,000 "public opinion shapers".
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-20982985>

How Covert Agents Infiltrate the Internet to Manipulate, Deceive, and Destroy Reputations <https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2014/02/24/jtrig-manipulation/>

Leaked slides via Edward Snowden: The Art of Deception: Training for a New Generation of Online Covert Operations:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20190626033632/https://theintercept.com/document/2014/02/24/art-deception-training-new-generation-online-covert-operations/>

Behavioral Science Support for JTRIG'S Effects and Online HUMINT Operations, leaked courtesy of Edward Snowden:
<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2108174-behavioural-science-support-for-jtrigs-effects>

The co-owner of a major Pentagon propaganda contractor publicly admitted that he was behind a series of websites used in an attempt to discredit two USA TODAY journalists who had reported on the contractor.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20120601065450/https://www.usatoday.com/news/military/story/2012-05-24/Leonie-usa-today-propaganda-pentagon/55190450/1/>

Chinese officials flood the Chinese internet with positive social media posts to distract their population <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/20/chinese-officials-create-488m-social-media-posts-a-year-study-finds>

Exposing Cyber Shills and Social Media's Underworld
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cyber-shills_b_2803801

Political:

Operation Snow White was a criminal conspiracy by the Church of Scientology during the 1970s to purge unfavorable records about Scientology and its founder, L. Ron Hubbard. This project included a series of infiltrations into and thefts from 136 government agencies, foreign embassies and consulates, as well as private organizations critical of Scientology, carried out by Church members in more than 30 countries.[1] It was one of the largest infiltrations of the United States government in history,[2] with up to 5,000 covert agents.[3] This operation also exposed the Scientology plot 'Operation Freakout', because Operation Snow White was the case that initiated the U.S. government's investigation of the Church.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Snow_White (<http://archive.is/E1fqS>)

Revealed: emails show Trump and appointees tried to craft a narrative that forest protection efforts are responsible for wildfires.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/24/trump-administration-wildfire-science-promote-logging-california-emissions> (<http://archive.is/Vunmf>)

The Great Purge, also known as the "Great Terror," was a brutal political campaign led by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin to eliminate dissenting members of the Communist Party and anyone else he considered a threat. Although estimates vary, most experts believe at least 750,000 people were executed during the Great Purge, which took place between about 1936 and 1938. More than a million other people were sent to forced labor camps, known as Gulags. This ruthless and bloody operation caused rampant terror throughout the U.S.S.R. and impacted the country for many years. <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/great-purge>

"Between 1969 and 1973, the U.S. dropped half-a-million tons of bombs on Cambodia alone, killing at least 100,000 civilians. Given that Nixon had been elected on a promise to end the war in Vietnam, Kissinger believed that it wasn't enough to place Menu in the category of 'top secret.' Absolute and total secrecy, especially from Congress, was a necessity. He had no doubt that Congress, crucial to the appropriation of funds needed to conduct specific military missions, would never approve a bombing campaign against a neutral country with which the United States wasn't at war."

https://www.salon.com/2015/11/10/henry_kissingers_genocidal_legacy_partner/ (<http://archive.is/4NMTE>)

The Bush Administration used a "psychological operation" against the American public called the "Pentagon Military Analyst Program" to secretly spread pro-Government talking points through the media for years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/20/us/20generals.html> (<http://archive.is/DGhoP>)

The CIA infiltrated the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater on behalf of President Lyndon Johnson. They obtained copies of speeches and other material from the Goldwater campaign and gave them to President Johnson so he could respond to the points made before he read his speeches. CIA officer E. Howard Hunt was in charge of the spying operation. Hunt later retired from the CIA in 1970 and was hired by the White House in 1972 to lead a unit known as the Plumbers that was dedicated to plugging leaks within the Nixon administration, playing dirty tricks on Nixon's opponents and obtaining political intelligence. <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/05/22/cia-fbi-spy-presidential-campaign-trump-goldwater-218415> (<http://archive.is/2yRcG>)

"The Enterprise," a massive corporate/government network that conducted illegal international activities similar to the CIA

<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/11/19/world/the-iran-contra-report-what-the-enterprise-was.html> (<http://archive.is/Gb3LG>) (Documentary on this topic)

In its determination to secure a nuclear deal with Iran, the Obama administration derailed an ambitious law enforcement campaign targeting drug trafficking by the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah, even as it was funneling cocaine into the United States, according to a POLITICO investigation. <https://www.politico.com/interactives/2017/obama-hezbollah-drug-trafficking-investigation/> (<http://archive.is/IfcIf>)

Inside Hillary Clinton's Secret Takeover of the DNC, by Donna Brazile. Per an agreement between the Clinton Campaign and the DNC: In exchange for raising money and investing in the DNC, Hillary would control the party's finances, strategy, and all the money raised. Her campaign had the right of refusal of who would be the party communications director, and it would make final decisions on all the other staff. The DNC also was required to consult with the campaign about all other staffing, budgeting, data, analytics, and mailings.

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/11/02/clinton-brazile-hacks-2016-215774> (<http://archive.is/fedq5>)

Israeli Operatives Who Aided Harvey Weinstein Collected Information on Former Obama Administration Officials to undermine the Iran Nuclear Deal
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/israeli-operatives-who-aided-harvey-weinstein-collected-information-on-former-obama-administration-officials>
(<http://archive.is/MGiSY>)

"Former state Rep. Oliver Robinson testified Tuesday that he accepted money to oppose federal environmental cleanup efforts in north Birmingham, telling jurors that in doing so that he felt like he sold out the people who had elected him. He is a key witness for prosecutors trying to prove that two attorneys with a prominent Alabama law firm and a coal company executive paid bribes to Robinson, in the form of a consulting contract, in the hopes of avoiding clean-up costs at a Birmingham Superfund site. Robinson, who pleaded guilty last year to bribery and tax evasion, said he felt that he had sold out the people who had elected him to the Alabama Statehouse, the station reported."
<https://apnews.com/f7ade71c0fe54ad18a7cadae2debd5d0/Former-state-lawmaker-testifies-he-was-paid-to-oppose-EPA> (<https://archive.is/0AtGD>)

In its self-described "pied piper" strategy, the Clinton campaign proposed intentionally cultivating extreme right-wing presidential candidates, hoping to turn them into the new "mainstream of the Republican Party" in order to try to increase Clinton's chances of winning, telling the press to take Trump, Ben Carson, and Ted Cruz seriously, rather than marginalizing them.
<http://www.salon.com/2016/11/09/the-hillary-clinton-campaign-intentionally-created-donald-trump-with-its-pied-piper-strategy/> (<http://archive.is/HSDVz>)

The deliberate starvation of millions in Ukraine- In the spring of 1933, the Soviet Union was in the depths of a class war. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had sent workers and communists from the cities to extract grain from the countryside. "We realized," as one of them put it, "that it was impossible for us to live on the same earth as these bloodsuckers." The suppression of private agriculture, combined with unreasonable requisitions, caused millions to die that year in the Soviet Union. As The Post's Anne Applebaum reveals in "Red Famine," Stalin and the Soviet leadership enforced policies that ensured that the disaster was worst in Ukraine. According to the latest work of demographers, some 3.9 million people died by starvation in that Soviet republic. Until the Holocaust, the great famine in Soviet Ukraine was the largest policy of mass killing in Europe in the 20th century.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/the-deliberate-starvation-of-millions-in-ukraine/2017/11/03/0999f2d0-b8bb-11e7-be94-fabb0f1e9ffb_story.html
(<http://archive.is/RA7ND>)

A two-year corruption and international money-laundering investigation stretching from the Jersey Shore to Brooklyn to Israel and Switzerland culminated in charges against 44 people on Thursday, including three New Jersey mayors, two state assemblymen and five rabbis, the authorities said. It was replete with tales of the illegal sales of body parts; of furtive negotiations in diners, parking lots and boiler rooms; of nervous jokes about "patting down" a man who turned out to indeed be an informant; and, again and again, of the passing of cash — once in a box of Apple Jacks cereal stuffed with \$97,000. "For these defendants, corruption was a way of life," Ralph J. Marra Jr., the acting United States attorney in New Jersey, said at a news conference. "They existed in an ethics-free zone." Mr. Marra said that average citizens "don't have a chance" against the culture of influence peddling the investigation had unearthed. https://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/nyregion/24jersey.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0 (<http://archive.is/JiTKu>)

MI5 agents are allowed to carry out criminal activity in the UK, the government has acknowledged for the first time.
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/02/mi5-agents-are-allowed-to-commit-in-uk-government-reveals> (<http://archive.is/4dCnU>) MI5 grants its informants legal cover to participate in crimes that may extend to murder, torture and sexual assaults, a tribunal has heard.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/04/mi5-sought-immunity-for-agents-criminal-acts-tribunal-told> (<http://archive.is/v8CUT>)

How secret renditions shed light on MI6's licence to kill and torture- Section 7 of the 1994 Intelligence Services Act offers protection not only to spies involved in bugging or bribery, but also to any who become embroiled in far more serious matters, such as murder, kidnap or torture – as long as their actions have been authorised in writing by a secretary of state.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/feb/14/mi6-licence-to-kill-and-torture> (<http://archive.is/pfGA8>)

In a major covert operation of the cold war, the Central Intelligence Agency spent millions of dollars to support the conservative party that dominated Japan's politics for a generation. The C.I.A. gave money to the Liberal Democratic Party and its members in the 1950's and the 1960's, to gather intelligence on Japan, make the country a bulwark against Communism in Asia and undermine the Japanese left, said retired intelligence officials and former diplomats. <https://www.nytimes.com/1994/10/09/world/cia-spent-millions-to-support-japanese-right-in-50-s-and-60-s.html> (<http://archive.is/EVZ43>)

A confidential trove of government documents obtained by The Washington Post reveals that senior U.S. officials failed to tell the truth about the war in Afghanistan throughout the 18-year campaign, making rosy pronouncements they knew to be false and hiding unmistakable evidence the war had become unwinnable. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/afghanistan-war-confidential-documents/> (<http://archive.is/xoPlz>)

Big Pharma:

Merck made a "hit list" of doctors who criticized Vioxx, according to testimony in a Vioxx class action case in Australia. The list, emailed between Merck employees, contained doctors' names with the labels "neutralise," "neutralised" or "discredit" next to them. One email said: "We may need to seek them out and destroy them where they live ...". <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/merck-created-hit-list-to-destroy-neutralize-or-discredit-dissenting-doctors/> (<http://archive.is/QA0EY>)

"The head of Food and Drug Administration's opioid advisory team says officials are manipulating process to benefit big pharma. Since the 1990s, the FDA division responsible for opioid approvals relies on the drug industry for 75% of its budget, and FDA officials engage in 'pay to play' schemes." <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jan/24/fda-opioids-big-pharma-prescriptions> (<http://archive.is/z3jfb>)

"The pharmaceutical group GlaxoSmithKline has been fined \$3 billion after admitting to bribing doctors and encouraging the prescription of unsuitable antidepressants to children. Sales reps in the United States encouraged to mis-sell antidepressants Paxil and Wellbutrin and asthma treatment Advair." <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2012/jul/03/glaxosmithkline-fined-bribing-doctors-pharmaceuticals> (<http://archive.is/tOCvI>)

"The British former boss of GlaxoSmithKline in China will be deported back to the UK after pleading guilty to bribery-related charges and being handed a three-year suspended prison sentence. Mark Reilly had been barred from leaving China for the past year and accused of overseeing a 'criminal godfather' scheme to bribe doctors with £300m worth of cash and sex to prescribe GSK drugs." <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/sep/19/glaxosmithkline-china-mark-reilly-deported-uk-guilty-bribery-hunan> (<http://archive.is/IaTZk>)

Amid a targeted lobbying effort, pharmaceutical company lobbyists convinced Congress to weaken the DEA's ability to go after prescription drug distributors, even as opioid-related deaths continue to rise, a Washington Post and '60 Minutes' investigation finds. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/investigations/dea-drug-industry->

[congress/?utm_term=.42d91d09e9ea](http://archive.is/rVwGd) (<http://archive.is/rVwGd>)

"The CEO of drug giant Insys Therapeutics bribed doctors to prescribe more opioids to patients who didn't need them, according to federal authorities who arrested the executive after a raid... John Kapoor, the billionaire founder and CEO, led "a nationwide conspiracy to profit by using bribes and fraud to cause the illegal distribution of a fentanyl spray intended for cancer patients..." <http://www.newsweek.com/big-pharma-opioid-crisis-bribery-arrest-694154> (<http://archive.is/kkaw0>)

"In Guilty Plea, OxyContin Maker to Pay \$600 Million. The company that makes the narcotic painkiller OxyContin and three current and former executives pleaded guilty in federal court to criminal charges that they misled regulators, doctors and patients about the drug's risk of addiction and its potential to be abused. Company sales officials were allowed to draw their own fake scientific charts which showed a lower addictive potential, which they then distributed to doctors." <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/10/business/11drug-web.html> (<http://archive.is/dMP94>)

"Pharmaceutical giant Aspen plotted to destroy life-saving cancer medicines in order to drive prices up by 4,000%" <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/drug-giant-aspen-plot-destroy-cancer-medicine-big-pharma-times-investigation-a7683521.html#> (<http://archive.is/N78Y8>)

Federal prosecutors have charged a New York doctor with accepting cash bribes and tickets to Justin Bieber and Katy Perry concerts from a New Jersey blood lab. Thirty-eight people have pleaded guilty in connection with the bribery scheme. <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/NY-Doctor-Accepted-Cash-Justin-Bieber-Tickets-as-Bribes-From-NJ-Blood-Lab-Prosecutors-321723492.html> (<http://archive.is/SiM1U>)

A 2009 letter sent anonymously by FDA staff to President Obama described "systemic corruption and wrongdoing that permeates all levels of FDA." <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fda-corruption-letter-authenticated-lawyers-start-your-engines/> (<http://archive.is/mkj1C>)

A division of the pharmaceutical company Bayer sold millions of dollars of blood-clotting medicine for hemophiliacs -- medicine that carried a high risk of transmitting AIDS -- to Asia and Latin America in the mid-1980's while selling a new, safer product in the West. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/22/business/2-paths-of-bayer-drug-in-80-s-riskier-one-steered-overseas.html>

False Flags

During Operation Fast and Furious, CBS News reports that officials wanted to use the suspicious sales of the weapons, encouraged by ATF against the judgement of some gun dealers, to influence gun legislation. In other words, the ATF was creating a problem and had a gun legislation solution lined up. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/documents-atf-used-fast-and-furious-to-make-the-case-for-gun-regulations/> (<http://archive.is/MG4uh>)

Operation Northwoods- A plan to create false flag acts of terrorism against US citizens in order to provoke support for a war against Cuba. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=92662&page=1> (<http://archive.is/V302l>) (PDF of the actual document: <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/news/20010430/northwoods.pdf>)

The Lavon affair refers to an exposed Israeli covert operation, code named Operation Susannah, conducted in Egypt in the Summer of 1954. As part of the false flag operation, a group of Egyptian Jews were recruited by Israeli military intelligence and planted bombs inside Egyptian, American, and British-owned civilian targets, cinemas, libraries and American educational centers. The operation ultimately became known as the Lavon affair after the Israeli defense minister Pinhas Lavon was forced to resign as a consequence of the incident. Israel publicly denied any involvement in the incident for 51 years; however,

the surviving agents were officially honored in 2005, being awarded certificates of appreciation by Israeli President Moshe Katsav.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavon_Affair (<http://archive.is/dzxMp>)

"Russia's parliament has declared that Joseph Stalin ordered his secret police to execute 22,000 Polish army officers and civilians in 1940, in one of the greatest mass murders of the 20th century. Mikhail Gorbachev admitted in 1990 that the NKVD was to blame for the massacre, after a half-century of the Soviets blaming it on Nazi troops."
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/nov/26/russian-parliament-guilt-katyn-massacre> (<http://archive.is/bqPVG>)

2003 "extremely sensitive" memo between President Bush and Blair on provoking war with Iraq: The president raised three possible ways of provoking a confrontation. "The U.S. was thinking of flying U2 reconnaissance aircraft with fighter cover over Iraq, painted in U.N. colours," the memo says, attributing the idea to Mr. Bush. "If Saddam fired on them, he would be in breach." It also described the president as saying, "The U.S. might be able to bring out a defector who could give a public presentation about Saddam's W.M.D."
<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/27/world/europe/bush-was-set-on-path-toward-british-memo-says.html> (<https://archive.fo/ZGgpI>)

"The girl, whose testimony helped build support for the Persian Gulf war, was identified only as "Nayirah," supposedly to protect family members still in Kuwait. Another piece of information was also withheld: that she is not just some Kuwaiti but the daughter of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the U.S. How did the girl's testimony come about? It was arranged by the big public relations firm of Hill & Knowlton on behalf of a client, the Kuwaiti-sponsored Citizens for a Free Kuwait, which was then pressing Congress for military intervention. Mr. Lantos knew the girl's identity but concealed it from the public and from the other caucus co-chairman, Representative John E. Porter of Illinois."
<http://www.nytimes.com/1992/01/15/opinion/deception-on-capitol-hill.html>

On 4 April 1953, the CIA was ordered to undermine the government of Iran over a four-month period, as a precursor to overthrowing Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. One tactic they used to undermine Mosaddegh was carrying out false flag attacks "on mosques and key public figures", and blamed them on Iranian communists loyal to the government. After this operation, which was used to control Iran's oil supply, Iran was one of the US's closest allies until 1979 when they lost control. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_flag#Project_TP-Ajax 47 years after the operation, although CIA officers had been writing about it in their memoirs for years, proof was finally leaked to the New York Times: <https://web.archive.org/web/20210225022230/https://www.nytimes.com/2000/04/16/world/secrets-history-cia-iran-special-report-plot-convulsed-iran-53-79.html> The CIA finally admitted its role in the coup in 2013, then in 2023, the CIA admitted that the move was undemocratic:
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/oct/13/cia-1953-iran-coup-undemocratic-argo>

"Britain blew up humanitarian flotillas after the Holocaust ... A new book uncovers shocking secret attacks launched on ships bearing Holocaust survivors en route to Israel. Andrew Roberts on the violent lengths to which post-war Britain went to appease oil-rich Arab states. MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949, by the distinguished British historian Keith Jeffery, reveals the existence of Operation Embarrass, a plan to try to prevent Jews getting into Palestine in 1946-'48 using disinformation and propaganda but also explosive devices placed on ships. Nor is this some speculative spy story that can be denied by the authorities: Dr. Jeffrey's book is actually, in their own words: 'Published with the permission of The Secret Intelligence Service and the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.'" During the summer of 1947 and early 1948, five attacks were undertaken on ships in Italian ports, of which one was rendered "a total loss" and two others were damaged. Two other British-made limpet mines were discovered before they went off, but the Italian authorities did not find their country of origin suspicious, "as the Arabs would

of course be using British stores." Operation Embarrass even considered blowing up the Baltimore steamship President Warfield when in harbor in France, which later became famous in Israeli history as the "Exodus" ship that "launched a nation." <https://www.thedailybeast.com/mi6-attacked-jewish-refugee-ships-after-wwii> (<http://archive.is/MKALq>)

In 1985, the French foreign intelligence services bombed and sank a Greenpeace ship and blamed it on terrorists. The French government wanted to prevent the ship from interfering with a planned nuclear test. One crew member died. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinking_of_the_Rainbow_Warrior

The Bay of Pigs Invasion https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_of_Pigs_Invasion

Nearly 50 years before the war in Iraq, Britain and America sought a secretive "regime change" in another Arab country they accused of spreading terror and threatening the west's oil supplies, by planning the invasion of Syria and the assassination of leading figures. Newly discovered documents show how in 1957 Harold Macmillan and President Dwight Eisenhower approved a CIA-MI6 plan to stage fake border incidents as an excuse for an invasion by Syria's pro-western neighbours, and then to "eliminate" the most influential triumvirate in Damascus. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2003/sep/27/uk.syria1> (<http://archive.is/FA9iG>)

"Japanese troops staged a bombing of their own railway by placing explosives near the train tracks. Even though the explosion did minimal damage and a train managed to pass the damaged section soon thereafter, this 'attack' was blamed on the Chinese and used as a pretext to invade and pacify Manchuria. This was the beginning of the Fifteen Year War (1931-45), a Japanese-instigated conflagration that caused widespread regional devastation. China suffered the brunt of that mayhem, which is why this day has become engraved in the collective memory as a trauma inflicted by Japan." <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2016/09/17/commentary/memories-1931-mukden-incident-remain-divisive/> (<http://archive.is/lBC0i>)

The Anti-Muslim bombings in Paris, Cannes and Nice were a series of three terror bombings carried out by anti-Muslim extremists in French cities in the 1970s and 1980s. The bombers posed as an extremist Zionist group, calling themselves the Masada Action and Defense Movement, and leaving anti-Islam leaflets bearing Stars of David at the scene of one of the 1988 bombings.[3] The Zionist moniker ended up being a false flag and in 1989, 18 members of the neo-Nazi French and European Nationalist Party were arrested for the bombings,[6] which had been intended to provoke tensions between Arabs and Jews in France. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Muslim_bombings_in_Paris,_Cannes_and_Nice (<http://archive.is/dZhQD>)

Operation Himmler (less often known as Operation Konserve or Operation Canned Goods) was a 1939 false flag project planned by Nazi Germany to create the appearance of Polish aggression against Germany, which was subsequently used by the Nazis to justify the invasion of Poland. This included staging false attacks on themselves using innocent people or concentration camp prisoners. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Himmler (<http://archive.is/4PEB5>)

Water quality and environmental contamination:

NYC fudged records to show day care centers' water was tested for lead, but no tests were performed. DOHMH – the agency that's required to inspect all 11,000 child care centers in New York City annually – had more or less given up on the task. <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-faked-day-care-centers-lead-water-level-test-records-article-1.2686760> (<http://archive.is/qyTaC>)

5,300 U.S. water systems are in violation of lead rules
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/28/us/epa-lead-in-u-s-water-systems/>
(<http://archive.is/DYMBq>)

US authorities distorting tests to downplay lead content of water
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jan/22/water-lead-content-tests-us-authorities-distorting-flint-crisis> (<http://archive.is/z00lw>)

"Records analyzed by The New York Times indicate that the Clean Water Act has been violated more than 506,000 times since 2004, by more than 23,000 companies and other facilities, according to reports submitted by polluters themselves."
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/13/us/13water.html> (<http://archive.is/HOSNv>)

Chicago Tribune: 11,000 Crestwood, Illinois residents were knowingly given tapwater contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals for 40 years. Federal agents raided Crestwood's village hall, their Department of Public Works building, and the police department. <http://archive.is/D7Ddc> , <http://archive.is/V9Btl>

Mafia, toxic waste and a deadly cover up in an Italian paradise: 'They've poisoned our land and stolen our children'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/mafia-toxic-waste-and-a-deadly-cover-up-in-an-italian-paradise-t/> (<https://archive.is/Q76LB>)

The Government's influence in TV shows and movies:

Washington DC's role behind the scenes in Hollywood goes deeper than you think. "On television, we found more than 1,100 titles received Pentagon backing – 900 of them since 2005, from 'Flight 93' to 'Ice Road Truckers' and 'Army Wives.' Between 1911 and 2017, more than 800 feature films received support from the US Government's Department of Defence (DoD), a significantly higher figure than previous estimates indicate. These included blockbuster franchises such as Transformers, Iron Man, and The Terminator.
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/hollywood-cia-washington-dc-films-fbi-24-intervening-close-relationship-a7918191.html> (<http://archive.is/bbMwx>)

"All these people that run studios - they go to Washington, they hang around with senators, they hang around with CIA directors, and everybody's on board."
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2008/nov/14/thriller-ridley-scott>
(<http://archive.is/N2TRT>)

Over the decades, the relationship between Hollywood and the military has served the needs of both sides: Filmmakers gain access to equipment, locations, personnel and information that lend their productions authenticity, while the armed forces get some measure of control over how they're depicted. That's important not just for recruiting but also for guiding the behavior of current troops and appealing to the U.S. taxpayers who foot the bills. National CineMedia, which sells ads in movie theaters, paired the Army and 20th Century Fox for a marketing campaign designed to reach potential recruits. The campaign intercut footage from the Fox superhero movie "X-Men: First Class" with images of real soldiers as a voice-over intoned, "Heroes – ordinary people who discover they can do extraordinary things." The spots played in cinemas, and exit polls of 17- to 24-year-olds leaving the movie theater found that those who saw the ad were 25% more likely to say they would consider joining the Army.
<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/21/entertainment/la-ca-military-movies-20110821> (<http://archive.is/01L57>)

How the CIA Helped Make "Zero Dark Thirty" - Behind the scenes, the CIA secretly worked with the filmmakers, and the movie portrayed the agency's controversial "enhanced interrogation techniques" – widely described as torture – as a key to uncovering information that led to the finding and killing of bin Laden... but the massive Senate torture report released in December 2014 found that the program was brutal, mismanaged and – most importantly – didn't work.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/watch-how-the-cia-helped-make-zero-dark-thirty/> (<http://archive.is/zIRh0>)

Banking:

"Everything Is Rigged: The Biggest Price-Fixing Scandal Ever"

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/everything-is-rigged-the-biggest-financial-scandal-yet-20130425> (<http://archive.is/etdQa>)

The US government decided not to pursue criminal charges against HSBC for allowing terrorists and drug dealers to launder millions of dollars after George Osborne and the UK banking regulator intervened to warn that prosecuting Britain's biggest bank could lead to a "global financial disaster"... The House financial services committee report said the UK interventions "played a significant role in ultimately persuading the DoJ [Department of Justice] not to prosecute HSBC". Instead of pursuing a prosecution, the bank agreed to pay a record \$1.92bn (£1.4bn) fine."

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jul/11/hsbc-us-money-laundering-george-osborne-report> (<https://archive.is/dbCtm>)

"Banks globally have paid \$321 billion in fines since 2008 for an abundance of regulatory failings from money laundering to market manipulation and terrorist financing, according to data from Boston Consulting Group."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-02/world-s-biggest-banks-fined-321-billion-since-financial-crisis> (<http://archive.is/jlz9c>)

"Big Banks Paid \$110 Billion in Mortgage-Related Fines. Where Did the Money Go? The largest U.S. banks were penalized for their role in inflating a mortgage bubble that helped cause the financial crisis."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/big-banks-paid-110-billion-in-mortgage-related-fines-where-did-the-money-go-1457557442> (<http://archive.is/Qrh2W>)

"Deutsche Bank Fined in Plan to Help Russians Launder \$10 Billion. Deutsche Bank agreed on Monday to pay a \$425 million fine to New York State's main financial regulator to settle charges that it helped Russian investors launder as much as \$10 billion through its branches in Moscow, London and New York. The punishment represents the latest regulatory black eye for Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest. In the last decade, it has been implicated in several financial scandals, including pushing toxic mortgages on investors and manipulating London's main lending rate for its own financial gain."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/business/dealbook/deutsche-bank-fined-for-helping-russians-launder-10-billion.html> (<http://archive.is/GD2Q9>)

"Citing chat room messages like these, replete with typos, jargon and vulgarities, United States, British and Swiss regulators on Wednesday fined some of the world's biggest banks a combined \$4.25 billion, accusing them of conspiring to manipulate the foreign currency markets. The fines pose no risk to the health of the banks that settled – UBS, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, HSBC and the Royal Bank of Scotland – nor were any traders or executives charged with wrongdoing. And yet the settlements on Wednesday closed only the first chapter of what is shaping up to be a more damaging story for the banks."

<https://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/british-and-u-s-regulators-fine-big-banks-3-16-billion-in-foreign-exchange-scandal/> (<http://archive.is/eOXju>)

Libor Scandal: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libor_scandal

"Citicorp (C), JPMorgan Chase (JPM), Barclays (BCS) and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) agreed to pay more than \$5 billion for conspiring to fix the price of U.S. dollars and euros, the Justice Department said Wednesday."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/in-rare-admission-of-guilt-wall-st-banks-admit-they-rigged-markets/> (<http://archive.is/QIKvo>)

Wachovia bank paid out a fine less than 2% of the bank's \$12.3bn profit for 2009 for laundering money for drug cartels

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/apr/03/us-bank-mexico-drug-gangs> (<https://archive.is/aAZEW>)

HSBC pays out 1.9 Billion dollar fine for laundering money for drug cartels.

"Obviously, \$1.9 billion is a very large number, but it's very manageable" without affecting HSBC's bottom line, said Ian Gordon, head of bank research for

Investec Securities in London. "It's clearly within market expectations."
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2012/12/11/hsbc-laundering-probe/1760351/> (<https://archive.is/GVn6Z>)

The US department of justice said HSBC had moved \$881m for two drug cartels in Mexico and Colombia and accepted \$15bn in unexplained "bulk cash", across the bank's counters in Mexico, Russia and other countries. In some branches the boxes of cash being deposited were so big the tellers' windows had to be enlarged. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2012/dec/14/hsbc-money-laundering-fine-management> (<http://archive.is/ad0f8>)

Surveillance:

"How America Spies on Europe and the UN. President Obama promised that NSA surveillance activities were aimed exclusively at preventing terrorist attacks. But secret documents from the intelligence agency show that the Americans spy on Europe, the UN and other countries."
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/secret-nsa-documents-show-how-the-us-spies-on-europe-and-the-un-a-918625.html> Page 1: (<http://archive.is/AUzdM>) Page 2: (<https://archive.is/1PasU>)

"Four Central Intelligence Agency officers were embedded with the New York Police Department in the decade after Sept. 11, 2001, including one official who helped conduct surveillance operations in the United States, according to a newly disclosed C.I.A. inspector general's report. That officer believed there were "no limitations" on his activities, the report said, because he was on an unpaid leave of absence, and thus exempt from the prohibition against domestic spying by members of the C.I.A. Another embedded C.I.A. analyst – who was on its payroll – said he was given 'unfiltered' police reports that included information unrelated to foreign intelligence, the C.I.A. report said."
<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/27/nyregion/cia-sees-concerns-on-ties-to-new-york-police.html> (<http://archive.is/yKwIa>)

"The C.I.A. monitoring of journalists in 1963, 1971 and 1972, including wiretapping their phones and setting up observation posts across the street from their offices to track their comings and goings and their visitors, was a practice that the White House itself employed during the Nixon administration."
<https://washington.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/06/26/project-mockingbird/> (<http://archive.is/pp4YM>)

Operation Chaos, Project Merrimac, and Project Resistance were three related CIA domestic spying programs. The purpose of 'Chaos' was to "amass files on Americans suspected of being domestic dissidents" and look into any foreign influence on leftist movements. Under Merrimac, "CIA agents infiltrated peace groups and black activist groups with the aim of anticipating attacks on the agency itself." The aim of project Resistance was to "compile information on radical groups that might target CIA activities or assets. The program compiled information from around the country, but specifically targeted college campuses in its search for radical elements. The CIA obtained additional information from local police, and campus officials."
https://www.salon.com/2014/03/20/8_times_the_cia_used_american_spies_to_spy_on_americans_partner/ (<http://archive.is/GJyNa>)

Harvey Weinstein's Army of Spies. The film executive hired private investigators, including ex-Mossad agents, to track actresses and journalists.
<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/harvey-weinsteins-army-of-spies>

CBS 60 Minutes: "The top secret surveillance network is called Echelon." (13 minutes, reported by CBS prior to 9/11) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfdm78zcv80>

NSA 'offers intelligence to British counterparts to skirt UK law'
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/jun/10/nsa-offers-intelligence-british-counterparts-blunkett> (<http://archive.is/lJDaY>)

NSA shares raw intelligence including Americans' data with Israel
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/11/nsa-americans-personal-data-israel-documents> (<http://archive.is/0CqQZ>)

"Britain's GCHQ intelligence agency can spy on anyone but British nationals, the NSA can conduct surveillance on anyone but Americans, and Germany's BND (Bundesnachrichtendienst) foreign intelligence agency can spy on anyone but Germans. That's how a matrix is created of boundless surveillance in which each partner aids in a division of roles.
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/secret-documents-nsa-targeted-germany-and-eu-buildings-a-908609.html> (<http://archive.is/lZseh>)

US government built secret iPod with Apple's help, former engineer says- iPod engineer says only four people inside Apple knew of project.
<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2020/08/apple-helped-us-government-build-a-secret-ipod-former-engineer-says/> (<https://archive.is/0ltAi>)

Inside the secret world of the corporate spies who infiltrate protests
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/12/inside-the-secret-world-of-the-corporate-spies-who-infiltrate-protests>

Wal-Mart hired Lockheed Martin to monitor union organizing among their employees. <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2015-walmart-union-surveillance/> (<http://archive.is/RIk5V>)

"Cops scan social media to help assess your 'threat rating'"
<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2014/12/12/police-data-mining-looks-through-social-media-assigns-you-a-threat-level/>

Science Whistleblowers and information about little-known problems in science:

Scientific American: How Pharma-Funded Research Cherry-Picks Positive Results
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/trial-sans-error-how-pharma-funded-research-cherry-picks-positive-results/>

Richard Horton, editor in chief of The Lancet, recently wrote: "Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness. As one participant put it, "poor methods get results".
<http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736%2815%2960696-1.pdf>

In 2009, Dr. Marcia Angell of the New England Journal of Medicine wrote: "It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor of The New England Journal of Medicine." <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2009/jan/15/drug-companies-doctors-a-story-of-corruption/>

"I can't tell you exactly what percentage of the trials are flawed, but I think the problem is far bigger than you imagine, and getting worse...it is so easy to manipulate data, conceal it or fabricate it...there is almost a code of silence not to speak about it." -Whistleblower Dr. Peter Wilmschurst
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/spiegel-interview-with-whistleblower-doctor-peter-wilmschurst-a-1052159.html>

Silencing the Scientist: Tyrone Hayes on Being Targeted by Herbicide Firm Syngenta
http://www.democracynow.org/2014/2/21/silencing_the_scientist_tyrone_hayes_on

Back in the 1960s, a sugar industry executive wrote fat checks to a group of

Harvard researchers so that they'd downplay the links between sugar and heart disease in a prominent medical journal—and the researchers did it, according to historical documents reported in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine. One of those Harvard researchers went on to become the head of nutrition at the United States Department of Agriculture, where he set the stage for the federal government's current dietary guidelines. All in all, the corrupted researchers and skewed scientific literature successfully helped draw attention away from the health risks of sweets and shift the blame solely to fats—for nearly five decades. The low-fat, high-sugar diets that health experts subsequently encouraged are now seen as a main driver of the current obesity epidemic.
<http://arstechnica.com/science/2016/09/sugar-industry-bought-off-scientists-skewed-dietary-guidelines-for-decades/>

Scientific American: How the FDA and other scientific institutions manipulate the media using "close-hold embargoes" and other shady tactics
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-the-fda-manipulates-the-media/>

Corporate Corruption:

Secret Documents Show Pepsi and Walmart Colluded to Raise Food Prices Across the Economy <https://www.thebignewsletter.com/p/secret-documents-show-pepsi-and-walmart> (<https://archive.fo/vdUM4>)

In 1992, Dateline N.B.C issued an on-air apology for airing a story that claimed a GM truck burst into flames after a side-impact crash. Investigators found the truck in a junkyard and discovered an incendiary device to cause the flame. The Newsdivision president resigned and 3 producers fired.
<https://www.sfgate.com/business/article/THRIVING-ON-FAILURE-3158547.php>

A suppressed report reveals that some of Britain's most respected industries, including law firms, telecoms giants and insurance companies routinely hire criminals to steal rivals' information.
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/the-other-hacking-scandal-suppressed-report-reveals-that-law-firms-telecoms-giants-and-insurance-8669148.html>

Volkswagen systematically cheated on U.S. air pollution tests as part of their "Clean Diesel" Scheme by dynamically modifying car performance with software that turns on full pollution controls only during official testing, a scheme that is set to cost them \$18bn <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-09-19/vw-clean-diesel-scheme-exposed-as-u-s-weighs-criminal-charges>

The forgotten history of how automakers invented the crime of "jaywalking"
<https://www.vox.com/2015/1/15/7551873/jaywalking-history>

Unidentified Flying Objects:

Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, who was the first Director of the CIA and on the Board of governors for NICAP, said in a letter to Congress: "Behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. To hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel." - Full NY Times article: <https://imgur.com/a/ljgfJyx> Paywalled article: <https://www.nytimes.com/1960/02/28/archives/air-forge-order-on-saucers-cited-pamphlet-by-the-inspector-general.html> ... Wiki: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roscoe_H._Hillenkoetter (<http://archive.is/0zAsZ>)

Numerous government agencies secretly take UFOs seriously, and have even spied on UFO organizations and individuals- New York Times, 1979: "Though officials have long denied that they take 'flying saucers' seriously, declassified documents now reveal extensive Government concern over the phenomenon... While official interest in U.F.O.'s has long been thought to be strictly the concern of the Air Force, the bulk of whose records has been open to public view for nearly a decade, the recently released papers on U.F.O.'s indicate otherwise. The Departments of the Army, Navy, State and Defense, and the Defense

Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the F.B.I., the C.I.A. and even the Atomic Energy Commission produced U.F.O. records over the years. Many of these agencies still do, and many of their documents remain classified... As the cold war gave rise to the fears of the McCarthy era, official concern over U.F.O.'s even led to the surveillance of several private U.F.O. organizations (as many of their members have long insisted) and to the scrutiny of dozens of individuals suspected of subversive U.F.O. activities. Perhaps most telling of all, the Government documents on U.F.O.'s reveal that despite official denials to the contrary, Federal agencies continue to monitor the phenomenon to this day."

<https://www.nytimes.com/1979/10/14/archives/ufo-files-the-untold-story.html>
(<http://archive.is/oQhuv>)

CIA's plan to use propaganda against American citizens to ridicule the UFO subject and reduce public interest in the phenomenon: "After a closed-door session with a scientific advisory panel chaired by H.P. Robertson from the California Institute of Technology, the C.I.A. issued a secret report recommending a broad educational program for all intelligence agencies, with the aim of "training and debunking." Training meant more public education on how to identify known objects in the sky. "The use of true cases showing first the 'mystery' and then the 'explanation' would be forceful," the report said. Debunking "would be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles." That plan involved using psychologists, advertising experts, amateur astronomers and even Disney cartoons to create propaganda to reduce public interest. And civilian U.F.O. groups should be "watched," the report stated, because of their "great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur." The Robertson Panel Report was classified until 1975, five years after Blue Book was shut down. But its legacy endures in the aura of ridicule surrounding U.F.O. reports, inhibiting scientific progress... When Blue Book closed in late 1969, the Air Force flatly lied to the American people, issuing a fact sheet claiming that no U.F.O. had ever been a threat to national security; that U.F.O.s did not represent "technological developments or principles beyond the range of present day scientific knowledge"; and that there was no evidence that they were 'extraterrestrial vehicles.'" <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/15/arts/television/project-blue-book-history-true-story.html> (<http://archive.is/CHL0s>)

The Bolender Memo: Declassified document proves the government continued to study the UFO phenomenon after project Blue Book was officially canceled in 1970. Their claim to no longer be interested in UFOs is therefore proven false. The document shows that the government secretly collected and studied any UFO reports that may affect national security. Those reports went into a separate system from the public Blue Book project, and that system continued to exist after Blue Book was canceled. Declassified document:
https://www.nicap.org/docs/Bolender_draft.pdf

Miscellaneous:

The 1984 Rajneeshee bioterror attack was the food poisoning of 751 individuals in The Dalles, Oregon, through the deliberate contamination of salad bars at ten local restaurants with Salmonella. A leading group of followers of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh (later known as Osho) called Rajneeshees had hoped to incapacitate the voting population of the city so that their own candidates would win the 1984 Wasco County elections.[2] The incident was the first and single largest bioterrorist attack in United States history
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1984_Rajneeshee_bioterror_attack

Protesters who demanded Huawei CFO's release revealed to be paid actors.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/22/huawei-protests-cfo-canada-trial-actors> (<http://archive.is/uG0VL>)

"EPA officials were aware of the severity of danger at Ground Zero in contrast to their public statements at the time." NYC allowed people to return after the collapse of the towers because the mayor's office was under pressure from

business owners to open more of the "red zone."

http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/09/07/nyc.air/index.html?section=cnn_health

"Hollywood actresses Felicity Huffman, Lori Loughlin and a slew of chief executives are among 50 wealthy people charged in the largest college cheating scam ever prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice, federal officials said Tuesday. Those indicted in the investigation dubbed 'Varsity Blues' allegedly paid bribes of up to \$6 million to get their children into elite colleges, including Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and the University of Southern California, federal prosecutors said." <https://abcnews.go.com/US/hollywood-actors-ceos-charged-nationwide-college-admissions-cheating/story?id=61627873>
(<http://archive.is/qDrnw>)

"The National Football League improperly tried to influence a government research center that was studying the connection between concussions and brain disease, according to a new congressional report released Monday." <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/05/nfls-concussion-cover-up/484016/> (<http://archive.is/VvFdt>)

A government-controlled industry group targeted popular food bloggers, major publications and a celebrity chef as part of its sweeping effort to combat a perceived threat from an egg-replacement startup backed by some of Silicon Valley's biggest names. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/sep/06/usda-american-egg-board-paid-bloggers-hampton-creek>

Child abuse documentary Hollywood 'didn't want you to see' goes viral
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/nov/01/an-open-secret-hollywood-child-abuse-documentary>

Operation Paperclip https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Paperclip

Operation Mockingbird - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Mockingbird
(Footage of hearings from the 70s [3:12]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDCfTIapds0>)

CIA Files Prove America Helped Saddam as He Gassed Iran
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/08/26/exclusive-cia-files-prove-america-helped-saddam-as-he-gassed-iran/>

On the Russian news outlet "RT," any direct criticism or questioning of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin or President Dmitry Medvedev is strictly prohibited.
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-today-tomorrow-the-world-2083869.html>

Tulsa Race Riot - On May 31 and June 1, 1921, a white mob started the Tulsa race riot, attacking residents and businesses of the African-American community of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in what is considered one of the worst incidents of racial violence in United States history. The attack, carried out on the ground and by air, destroyed more than 35 blocks of the district, at the time the wealthiest black community in the nation. More than 800 people were admitted to hospitals and more than 6,000 black residents were arrested and detained, many for several days. The Oklahoma Bureau of Vital Statistics officially recorded 39 dead, but the American Red Cross estimated 300, a number supported by historians since then. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa_race_riot

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_abuse_of_psychiatry

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Sea-Spray

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Big_Buzz

Project 112 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_112

CIA heart attack gun that uses a frozen dart that dissolves in the body.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSEnurBapdM> The toxin was undetectable in autopsies.

1985 - Police drop bomb on radicals' home in Philadelphia. The fire spread to 50 to 60 other houses in the neighborhood. Steve Harmon, a resident of the area, said: "Drop a bomb on a residential area? I never in my life heard of that. It's like Vietnam." <http://www.nytimes.com/1985/05/14/us/police-drop-bomb-on-radicals-home-in-philadelphia.html>

Overthrow of the democratically-elected leader of Iran for BP Oil in 1953.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/aug/19/cia-admits-role-1953-iranian-coup>

Overthrow of the democratically-elected leader of Guatemala for the United Fruit company (now Chiquita) in 1954
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1954_Guatemalan_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat

Jan. 17, 1893 | Hawaiian Monarchy Overthrown by America-Backed Businessmen
https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/17/jan-17-1893-hawaiian-monarchy-overthrown-by-america-backed-businessmen/?_r=0

The little-told story of how the U.S. government poisoned alcohol during Prohibition with deadly consequences.
http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/medical_examiner/2010/02/the_chemists_war.html

Widespread illegal adoptions in Ireland: "“This was a crime against these people and their mothers. Mothers who were told that their babies had died.” Established cases were registered by St Patrick’s Guild adoption society between 1946 and 1969. The youngest person affected is 49 and the oldest is 72.
<https://www.irishcentral.com/news/politics/illegal-adoptions-ireland>

Last revised by MKULTRA_Escapee 16 days ago
Community Info Section
conspiracy

This is a forum for free thinking and for discussing issues which have captured your imagination. Please respect other views and opinions, and keep an open mind. Our goal is to create a fairer and more transparent world for a better future.

Created Jan 25, 2008

Public

794K

Weekly visitors

42K

Weekly contributions

PAGE SECTIONS

List of Proven Conspiracies

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

TIL the United States put cameras on the end of missiles to get closeups of UFOs because our aircraft could not keep up with their maneuverability. : r/aliens

Open menu

r/aliens

Search in r/aliens

Log In

Expand user menu

Back
r/aliens icon
Go to aliens
r/aliens

•

3y ago
MKULTRA_Escapée

TIL the United States put cameras on the end of missiles to get closeups of UFOs because our aircraft could not keep up with their maneuverability.
noufors.com

Open
148

•

17
Comments Section
u/MKULTRA_Escapée avatar
MKULTRA_Escapée
OP

•

3y ago
Recently, respected researcher D.M. Duncan located Sarbacher's son, Robert Sarbacher, Jr., living in Texas. Duncan had a revealing dialog with Sarbacher. It was learned that the younger Sarbacher had once questioned his father about the UFO phenomena. His Dad spoke sparingly about the saucer subject.

Sarbacher Jr. said of his father: "He knew that they were real for the obvious reason that they would be going 600 mph and then make a direct 90 degree turn in mid-air without slowing down...separated from all inertia and gravity. Dad said that the reason he was called in was to build the right kind of missile to track these things since they were way too fast for any of our planes to catch. They wanted the missile to not destroy any of the UFOs, but to be able to track them. So Dad had cameras installed (like on the V-2 rockets) so when the UFO comes into our air space we would shoot missiles at them with cameras on them, since only a missile could keep up with the speed turns."

Stunned at the revelation, Duncan wanted to clarify this, and Sarbacher's son replied, "Yes, exactly to track UFOs, or rather to photograph and watch them...When he first told me about the missiles...the first thing I thought was, what? You were trying to destroy them? He (Sarbacher Sr.) said very normally and matter of factly, "No, we put cameras on the end of them."

Dr. Robert Sarbacher is also one of at least 5 sources of information to confirm the very high classification level of UFOs. The others include Senator Barry Goldwater, whose letters are also available, Wilbert B. Smith's 1950 memo, and this 1949 FBI memo.

Also see John Schindler's recent substack post NSA Seems to Be Spying on UFOs, which discusses a recently declassified document, and also see all of the other evidence that the government has been collecting signals or something emanating from UFOs since the 50s.

For more on Sarbacher/Smith: <https://science.howstuffworks.com/space/aliens-ufos/ufo-government10.htm>

Edit: added a link.

23
u/wecomeinpeacedoyou avatar
wecomeinpeacedoyou

•

3y ago
Find it hilarious that we get the potato quality (i.e. pixelated/filtered)

images when the military's cameras are clear af. Unless of course it's just part of the beginning processes and it's to "ease us in"—which would be the only generally fair reason. Probably shouldn't be shooting missiles at them though... especially in an offensive sort of move. It's unlike anything they and we have seen before—breathtaking and 'reality-shattering'—and should be treated with respect until there's a reason not to. I "hypothesize" we are not the biggest game in town—and we already realize that we have relatively poor sight and senses in terms of what we can see of this reality, and how to understand what we do in fact sense when we are able to sense it at all. Respect goes a long way. We're new. There is no such term as "our airspace" when it comes to anything not from our everyday world.

20

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

3y ago

That's funny. I probably started working on this other post right before you said that. Answer to "Why is it all just blurry dots?"

There are like 7 factors at play that cause this, but we actually do have some clear images and some very interesting videos taken by civilians. The seemingly-credible stuff gets debunked most often on an expected characteristic of genuine imagery, and those arguments are super convincing to tons of people out there.

The amount of leaked officially-recorded videos/photos is maybe 15+, and that's it. A few of them are actually pretty interesting. My favorite is probably Nellis because metabunk has like 6 mutually exclusive explanations for it. Two of the leaked photos are actually somewhat sharp (one out of Italy and one from Costa Rica, but just far enough away to be inconclusive). So I don't think there has been enough leaking yet to increase the odds enough that we would get a super crisp image. We know they exist though based on IC personnel admitting they exist, such as these. They put some of the clear images in classified UAP intelligence reports, but the only recently-leaked halfway clear one was that UAP that looked very much like a batman balloon.

But I agree with your point, generally speaking. The government wanted super closeups of these things, especially back in the 50s when their cameras were not as good, which is the time period in question for that leak, and I'm sure they got it eventually.

14

u/wecomeinpeacedoyou avatar

wecomeinpeacedoyou

•

3y ago

Thank you for your work, MK

2

TranslatorWeary

•

3y ago

Where were the photos on that site?

1

u/One-Fall-8143 avatar

One-Fall-8143

•

3y ago

I've heard that one thing that is used to debunk public photos and videos is if they are clear with high detail. For all I know Richard Doty said it 😊👉 and

it's nonsense, but the explanation was that because of the propulsion system they are always at least a little blurry. It's the way they are moving or something. But like I said, this could be complete BS. It kinda makes sense though if it's true.

1

u/MKULTRA_Escap3e avatar

MKULTRA_Escap3e

OP

•

3y ago

It appears to be a combination of things. The very first thing that needs to be stressed is that clear images that have not been proven fake/mundane are available. There are so many of them, I was able to find quite a few that were taken by pilots only:

https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/zy6x8h/pilot_ufo_photographs_over_the_years_and_pilot/

Reasons why most UFO images are blurry:

If an object moves very quickly through the atmosphere, it heats up and this causes it to be surrounded by plasma, obscuring the outer edges. This was mentioned by Nasa scientist Paul R. Hill in his book and he was criticized for it, but it's true.

The brighter something is, the bigger the source of light appears on camera. If a UFO itself is extremely bright, or it has very bright lights on it, it will show up on camera as an indistinct light. Here are examples:

<https://imgur.com/a/aN2Pugy> The last one is a clear photograph of a UFO that was 'debunked' because the lights are partially "behind" tree branches, but this was likely caused by a combination of a slight movement of the camera and the light sources appearing larger than they really are on camera.

If an object moves very quickly across the field of view, it will blur.

The experience is often very strange, leading to the witness shaking while trying to film.

UFO footage/photos often disappear off the internet pretty quickly (could be ridicule and the person deletes it or whatever). Then what might show up later is a compressed upload of it by somebody who had saved it before it was deleted. If you do this enough times, a clear photograph can end up being very blurry.

All skeptics and those who accept the reality of UFOs agree that anything inconclusive and blurry is genuine. Once the quality passes that threshold where the object is clearly anomalous, it's claimed to be a hoax, causing most people to decide not to share it. It's significantly more uncomfortable being labeled a gullible hoax promoter compared to being ridiculed for sharing another blurry image/video. It's guaranteed that somebody will come up with what sounds like a convincing debunk for a genuine image for these reasons:

https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/zi1cgn/while_most_ufo_photos_and_videos_cannot_individually/

2

u/One-Fall-8143 avatar

One-Fall-8143

•

3y ago

Thank you for another well thought out comment! I really do appreciate the time and effort you put into your posts and comments on Reddit. It's refreshing to hear a positive and informed perspective especially with the accompanying research material. I would like to talk more about the phenomenon with you if

you're willing. I've been interested in the subject my entire life and have been reading like Bigelow for the past few years. So I have a lot of information but aside from my wife who is also very passionate about the phenomenon I don't have anyone else to talk to about it that actually has a good base of knowledge. In my opinion the community needs more voices like yours, not to stroke you too heavily or anything 😊👍. Thanks again and I hope I can learn something from you.

2

1 more reply
u/Doom2pro avatar
Doom2pro

•

3y ago

Most potato cam footage is because the object being viewed is zoomed way out and only a fraction of the sensors pixels are being used. Also people tend to move all over the place when shooting, and often will be observing with their eyes instead of making sure object is in frame and stable. The rest is cheap sensors with bad resolution, frame rate and background noise.

4

[deleted]

•

3y ago

AnInfantGoat

•

3y ago

Kind of off topic but i remember reading somewhere that basically we would stage missile launches/nuclear tests because we found it attracted ufos

12

emar2021

•

3y ago

What a waste of money. Sounds exactly like something our military would do.

12

taronic

•

3y ago

I'm going to disagree with it being a waste of money here. You have this super advanced aerial phenomenon, vehicles that can travel through our airspace whether we like it or not. You have difficulty in studying them because of lack of data, or just lack of data that might explain anything important like how they work.

You need more data and to figure out exactly wtf these things are. You realize you can bait them with fake nuke tests.

Hell yeah they're going to do that. The most advanced "adversarial" craft that poses a national security threat can be drawn to you where you set up all the sensors and tests you want to get as much data as possible? This is an obviously good strategy from their perspective, since they have to look at it like a national security threat since that's their job to.

3

2 more replies
Related Answers Section
Related Answers

Most compelling evidence of alien life
Fascinating theories about ancient aliens
Impact of UFO sightings on society
Documentaries on extraterrestrial encounters
Unexplained phenomena linked to aliens
New to Reddit?
Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Best UFO Footage (stabilized)

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

5d ago

Best UFO Footage (stabilized)

r.aliens - Best UFO Footage (stabilized)

8.2K upvotes · 1.1K comments

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

4mo ago

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r.aliens - The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

1.8K upvotes · 140 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

125 upvotes · 124 comments

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

20d ago

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r.aliens - UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

co

517 upvotes · 168 comments

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

4mo ago

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

r.aliens - It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

338 upvotes · 63 comments

UFO whistleblower says Trump fully briefed on UAPs

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

20d ago

UFO whistleblower says Trump fully briefed on UAPs

r.aliens - UFO whistleblower says Trump fully briefed on UAPs

newsnationnow

84 upvotes · 72 comments

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

100 upvotes · 148 comments

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

20d ago

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

r/alien - In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

80 upvotes · 12 comments

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

13 upvotes · 41 comments

"We are not alone. We are being monitored." - Retired Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet on UFOs seen by US Navy sailors

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

"We are not alone. We are being monitored." - Retired Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet on UFOs seen by US Navy sailors

r/alien - "We are not alone. We are being monitored." - Retired Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet on UFOs seen by US Navy sailors

672 upvotes · 68 comments

This UFO Whistleblower Witnessed the Secret Space Program... and he's not alone

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

3mo ago

This UFO Whistleblower Witnessed the Secret Space Program... and he's not alone

r/alien - This UFO Whistleblower Witnessed the Secret Space Program... and he's not alone

youtu

126 upvotes · 46 comments

Australia's biggest Mass UFO sighting - Why did the military show up within minutes? Why were 200+ students and teachers warned to stay quiet? This case

definitely raises more questions than answers. What's your thoughts on this one?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

Australia's biggest Mass UFO sighting - Why did the military show up within minutes? Why were 200+ students and teachers warned to stay quiet? This case

definitely raises more questions than answers. What's your thoughts on this one?

r/alien - Australia's biggest Mass UFO sighting - Why did the military show up within minutes? Why were 200+ students and teachers warned to stay quiet? This

case definitely raises more questions than answers. What's your thoughts on this one?

thehiddenarchive

356 upvotes · 36 comments

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/alien - On The Origin of UFOs.

1K upvotes · 29 comments

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

10mo ago

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

43 comments

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

5mo ago

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/alien - Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

Serious

47 upvotes · 22 comments

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

259 upvotes · 105 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

196 upvotes · 16 comments

"This is the biggest discovery in human history. It (UFO/UAP Disclosure) has so many beneficial impacts, including clean energy."

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

2mo ago

"This is the biggest discovery in human history. It (UFO/UAP Disclosure) has so many beneficial impacts, including clean energy."

r/alien - "This is the biggest discovery in human history. It (UFO/UAP Disclosure) has so many beneficial impacts, including clean energy."

351 upvotes · 52 comments

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/alien - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

214 upvotes · 29 comments
When Astronomers See UFOs
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

6mo ago
When Astronomers See UFOs

26 upvotes · 9 comments
Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

4mo ago
Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

45 upvotes · 34 comments
'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

1mo ago
'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

r/aliens - 'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light
livescience

151 upvotes · 12 comments
Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

26d ago
Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?
r/aliens - Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

55 upvotes · 15 comments
A Stand-alone UFO/UAP Disclosure Bill will be Introduced to the House of Representatives for a Vote.
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

2mo ago
A Stand-alone UFO/UAP Disclosure Bill will be Introduced to the House of Representatives for a Vote.

r/aliens - A Stand-alone UFO/UAP Disclosure Bill will be Introduced to the House of Representatives for a Vote.

140 upvotes · 24 comments
Community Info Section
r/aliens

Join
Aliens

A community dedicated to discussing alien life through news, experiences, speculation and investigation. Please keep content related to extra-terrestrials or non-human intelligence behind the UAP phenomenon.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of December 18, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of December 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

[Privacy Policy](#)
[User Agreement](#)
[Your Privacy Choices](#)
[Accessibility](#)

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. [Skip to main content](#)

There is some pretty good evidence that the government intercepts communications or emissions from UFOs, and seems to have been doing so since at least the 1950s. : r/UFOs

[Open menu](#)

[r/UFOs](#)
[Search in r/UFOs](#)
[Log In](#)

[Expand user menu](#)

[Back](#)
[r/UFOs icon](#)
[Go to UFOs](#)
[r/UFOs](#)

•

[3y ago](#)
[MKULTRA_Escap](#)

There is some pretty good evidence that the government intercepts communications or emissions from UFOs, and seems to have been doing so since at least the 1950s.

For anyone who came across (fmr. NSA senior intelligence analyst) John Schindler's recent substack post [NSA Seems to Be Spying on UFOs](#), you may have noticed a familiar story. Here are some excerpts:

The release comes from STRATCOM's Directorate of Intelligence (J2) and consists of two Intelligence Team Activity Reports from 2020, dated July 24 and August 21. These reports are very highly classified – more on that in a moment – and contain revealing hints about what the Pentagon and the IC know about UAP.

However, the high classification is really the tell. Both snippets are classified TS//SI//TK//NF and, if you know what that means, you grasp the significance.

We therefore know that the UAP JIATF's briefing was highly classified, based on SIGINT from NSA, which was collected by spy satellites – and it's something the Pentagon doesn't want shared with even our closest allies. We don't know what kind of SIGINT was involved. It could be communications intelligence or COMINT, which is the intercept of various modes of communications; or it could be electronic intelligence or ELINT, which is the intercept of various non-human communications such as radar emissions. Together, COMINT plus ELINT equals SIGINT.

NSA knows something important here, but we can't assess what it is based on two short snippets from STRATCOM. It could be intercepts of alien communications or radar emissions. That's the little gray men of ufologist imaginations. Or it could be intercepts of communications from hostile militaries testing their advanced drones, which the public thinks are UFOs but really come from China or Russia. In either case, it's a big deal that the public deserves to know more about.

During my time with NSA, it was a stock joke that crashed UFOs were stored in the basement of Agency headquarters at Fort Meade in suburban Maryland. Nobody believed this was true and it was fun gag to try on anyone who asked too many questions. Some three decades ago, an Agency old timer took me to lunch and regaled me, a newbie, with tales of NSA glory from days of yore. Amid stories of

fooling Russians and stealing secrets, he threw in that the Agency possessed an Above Top Secret office that dealt with intercepts of UFO communications. He even said there was a super-secret shop that translated alien languages. I brushed it off as a leg-pull by an old dog close to retirement, something to shock the kids.

Now, I'm not so sure.

Regardless, it would be good if members of Congress ask NSA what it knows here. There's unquestionably public interest in knowing whether UAPs are of extraterrestrial origin or represent an entirely earthy threat to our national security.

Previously to this, Wikileaks leaked an email from Bob Fish (the former "Director of Advanced Programs" from 1988-1993, "managing a highly classified, global network" for a major DoD intelligence agency) to Clinton/Obama insider John Podesta in which he stated:

In that same TS/SCI building cafeteria in El Segundo, I had lunch with a senior USAF NCO who had worked for Project Blue Book in the 1970s (after it had been "officially disbanded). He was an ELINT technician (electronic intelligence) who flew in RC-135s from MacDill AFB in Florida. The "normal" target was Cuba where they did lots of snooping and sometimes challenging the Cubans to turn on radar and other systems.

He said there were times when they were diverted from these missions to track UFOs off the east coast of Florida. His claim was the UFOs had a landing and takeoff spot in the ocean east of Miami, north of Bermuda. He also claimed there was a specific electronic signature (frequency) emanating from them when they were going into or coming out of the water, so they were easy to track. On several occasions they filmed the UFO as it transitioned from water to air or vice versa. One last item is he was occasionally assigned to fly in a USAF weather aircraft (WC-135) when they had a hurricane hunting mission over the usual UFO area, where his specific assignment was kept secret from the other crew members. He would always report back to a dedicated USAF intelligence officer on base when they returned from a mission. He did not know where the intel that he collected was sent for processing or storage (WPAFB in Dayton would be the obvious choice). High quality film of UFOs is "out there" somewhere!

Previously, Victor Marchetti (fmr. NSA, special assistant to the Deputy Director of the CIA, resigned from CIA in '69) relayed similar information, which he termed "signals from outer space" being detected in How the CIA Views the UFO Phenomenon, Second Look Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 7, May '79, reprinted in full on Robert Hastings' website here. Here are some excerpts:

During my years in the CIA, UFOs were not a subject of common discussion. But neither were they treated in a disdainful or derisive manner, especially not by the agency's scientists. Instead, the topic was rarely discussed at internal meetings. It seemed to fall into the category of "very sensitive activities," e.g., drug and mind-control operations, domestic spying, and other illegal actions. People simply did not talk about the UFO phenomenon.

There were, however, rumors at high levels of the CIA ... rumors of unexplained sightings by qualified observers, of strange signals being received by the National Security Agency (the US Government's electronic intercept and communications intelligence collector), and even of little gray men whose ships had crashed, or had been shot down, being kept "on ice" by the Air Force at FTD (Foreign Technology Division) at Wright-Patterson AF Base in Dayton, Ohio. And there was the odd case of the lady from Maine who, while in a hypnotic trance, had allegedly communicated with a starship.

Most of these rumors, I found to be unimpressive ... except for the strange signals from outer space being received by NSA. Perhaps that was because I had

once been an NSA officer. Or perhaps it was because I had frequent contact with that agency while serving with the CIA, and the little I learned of the signals was treated with extreme caution even by SIGINT standards.

Aside from that, James E. McDonald investigated a case that occurred on July 17, 1957, which you can read about here (original hosted in this twitter post, courtesy of SpaceCowboy781) in which a luminous UFO followed an RB-47H electronic countermeasures reconnaissance aircraft with a crew of 6 officers. They were followed for approximately 1.5 hours, and apparently the object periodically "blinked" in and out (as if disappearing/reappearing). They soon realized they were detecting signals from it and continued doing so, specifically: "frequency 2995 mc to 3000 mc; pulse width of 2.0 microseconds; pulse repetition frequency of 600 cps; sweep rate of 4 rpm; vertical polarity." The object was seen both visually and on ECM monitoring gear, as well as ground-based radar. Because of this incident, this may have been the first time the government realized they could detect such objects, knowing what to look for specifically. I couldn't locate any deliberate tracking of UFOs previous to this, but there might be more out there.

This was also mentioned in the recently-released "Oke Shannon Notes" on the bottom of page 8. The notes elsewhere mention a "detector." You can download those here. Because it copies the entire above quote verbatim, I think the mention in the notes may have simply been referring to this 1957 incident.

There is a theory that has been floated by some that this "very round number" of 2,995-3,000MHz is an indication that the 1957 object was of human origin. After all, what are the odds that some non-human intelligence just so happened to chose that particular frequency? However, I believe this may simply be an expected coincidence in the same exact way that genuine UFO photographs may be debunked by picking out expected characteristics of other genuine photographs, such as an expected coincidence. With enough information available on a particular thing, eventually you will notice a coincidence or two just by chance.

So there is some pretty decent evidence here that the government has been collecting signals from UFOs and this has been going on for at least 65 years, which sounds really damn cool to say the least.

Aside from that, there have also been quite a number of electromagnetic interference cases. It's a fairly common theme with UFO reports that some kind of electromagnetic disturbance with vehicle operation or equipment was noted. Obviously these objects must be producing emissions of some sort, and such a thing presumably would be detectable if they're interfering with our electronic equipment when in close proximity to the objects. It would be extraordinarily surprising if at least one agency didn't attempt to routinely collect such signals or detect these objects in some similar fashion, so it should come as no surprise that such a thing has already leaked out a fair bit. My question is whether the emissions being detected are ever deliberately given off by the UFOs for some purpose rather than always being inadvertent "noise" caused by whatever technology is being used, and if there may be other ways to detect them. In the UFO literature, this interference with electronic equipment is often referred to as "Electromagnetic Effects."

From Fifty-Six Aircraft Pilot Sightings Involving Electromagnetic Effects,
Richard F. Haines, PhD:

Reports of anomalous aerial objects (AAO) appearing in the atmosphere continue to be made by pilots of almost every airline and air force of the world in addition to private and experimental test pilots. This paper presents a review of 56 reports of AAO in which electromagnetic effects (E-M) take place on-board the aircraft when the phenomenon is located nearby but not before it appeared or after it had departed. These effects are not related to the altitude or airspeed of the aircraft. The average duration of these sightings was 17.5 minutes in the 37 cases in which duration was noted. There were between one and 40 eye

witnesses (average = 2.71) on the aircraft. Reported E-M effects included radio interference or total failure, radar contact with and without simultaneous visual contact, magnetic and/or gyro-compass deviations, automatic direction finder failure or interference, engine stopping or interruption, dimming cabin lights, transponder failure, and military aircraft weapon system failure. There appears to be a reduction of the E-M energy effect with the square of increasing distance to the AAO. These events and their relationships are discussed. This area of research should be concentrated on by other investigators because of the wealth of information it yields and the physical nature of AAO including wavelength/frequency and power density emissions.

Read more

248

.

47

Comments Section

Spacecowboy78

.

3y ago

A bit of accidental confirmation of the signal:

Robert Hastings interviewed a pilot who mentioned he was instructed to be on the lookout for a 3Ghz signal in 1962, many years before McDonald publicized the signal in 1971, but a few years after the event in the 50s. Robert included the interview with that little detail in his UFOs & Nukes book. When I asked him if he was aware his book and his interview from the early 2000s supported the MacDonald finding in 1971, he was totally surprised.

Let's also recall that the NSA came from the Signals Corps (which had an officer on sight at the Aurora, Texas crash in 1897 according to the newspaper that day: <https://imgur.com/gallery/HfW44uV>). It seems possible that the Signals Corps was tracking UFOs much much earlier than anyone today would believe.

46

HumanReincarnator

.

3y ago

So if I started blasting that frequency out into the open, do you think a bunch of army guys would show up looking for aliens?

5

Spacecowboy78

.

3y ago

Oscillating between 2995Mhz and 3000Mhz at a 600Hz beat, maybe so.

5

SmeagolsRevengeV2

.

3y ago

Papers found on his person I want to imagine a three foot tall grey scribbling notes on loose-leaf college ruled paper. Anything is possible yo

4

u/SlendyIsBehindYou avatar

SlendyIsBehindYou

.

3y ago

Oh damn, that Aurora story really gives me psyop vibes.

I used to live right up in that area, I totally would have stopped in.

2

u/eschered avatar
eschered

•

3y ago

Great post really fascinating stuff. Thanks for taking the time to pull all of this information together so coherently. Must be a really fulfilling life for whoever is involved in trying to decipher these potentially extraterrestrial communications.

36

Riboflavivius

•

3y ago

Or frustrating as heck - imagine sitting on that and not being able to share, discuss, tell anyone. Just the "inner circle" of whoever you work with, if you're not compartmentalised and only have reports to make.

6

u/eschered avatar
eschered

•

3y ago

It's not for everyone that's for sure. I think I'd probably be pretty uniquely suited towards it though given I spend around ten hours a day doing deep focus programming work and haven't got a single technical person irl to discuss it with. If I could be solving problems all day towards that end I'd be very content simply to have that knowledge and be working to bridge that sacred gap between species.

The truth is the truth and we live with it whether we know it or not. I'm well past being able to happily dwell in ignorance at this point in life. Better to know. I get it though we're all different.

2

UrKillnMe

•

3y ago

Cool post man, thanks for sharing

10

u/DimMakracy avatar
DimMakracy

•

3y ago

The NSA is holding back way more than the Pentagon is. SIGINT is really what everyone is working off of more than anything at this point. But it works in reverse too. Now the NSA is terrified that every way they can monitor the public is completely surpassed in a way that keeps track of their every move and word as well. Anyone who doubts me, but has some kind of insider contact with NSA, go ahead and check for yourselves.

4

caffeinedrinker

•

3y ago

yeah great post dude, that was enjoyable to read :)

u/MKULTRA_Escapee have you ever considered doing this as a podcast ?

2

beepbotboo

•

3y ago

OP you always produce! Brilliant post again. Thank you

7

Embarrassed_Serve_90

•

3y ago

Great post! Thank you for the time you put into it.

2

bejammin075

•

3y ago

Great post. My 2 cents: when the UAP interfere with our equipment, it is probably a form of telekinesis (non-local entangled information/energy transfer) which we cannot pickup as an electromagnetic emission.

I notice a pattern where human military seem to be treated more roughly than human civilians. The equipment failures are specific and targeted. For example, in all the cases of UAP flying around commercial airliners, the equipment failures are almost all with detection and/or communication instruments, they aren't shutting off the engines and having the 747 plunge into the ocean. But with fighter jets, the interference can include weapons systems and engines (didn't the 1976 Tehran case involve engines temporarily shutting down?). And some reports are of UAP destroying a military craft if it was ordered to fire on a UAP.

I suspect that the frequencies we can pick up are a byproduct of the physics of the craft performing necessary functions, rather than communications.

10

Tedohadoer

•

3y ago

having the 747 plunge into the ocean

And if such case would even happen, how would we know that?

3

bejammin075

•

3y ago

UAP have many times made cars/trucks engines stop and the humans safely come to a stop. I think I've heard of fighter jet engine trouble, eg 1976 Tehran incident, but the engines come back on. I think if UAP did this to commercial planes, we would have heard a story of a passenger jet with UAP around, plunging for a while in total terror then the engines coming back on. Outright crashes of passenger jets are extremely rare and usually have a conventional reason. I realize this is speculative.

3

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

3y ago

Didn't Travis Taylor and the Skinwalker Ranch crew detect a signal at 1.6 Ghz?

2

steppinonpissclams

•

3y ago

Yes they did. Here's a good discussion about it in r/sdr.

2

u/Conversation0k2571 avatar

Conversation0k2571

•

3y ago

https://youtu.be/yANHYu-Q_Pc

2

SpookSkywatcher

•

3y ago

The detailed AIAA UFO Subcommittee report on the RB-47 incident ("Astronautics & Aeronautics" Journal, July 1971, pages 66-70) can be found at <http://www.noufors.com/Documents/Additional%20UFO%20Documents%20in%20JPG%20and%20PDF%20Format/aiaareport.pdf> . The author was James E. McDonald. The following footnote is at the end of the report:

"MacDonald Dies

On June 13, James E. MacDonald was found dead in the desert near Tuscon. He was 51 years old."

2

black-rhombus

•

3y ago

It's important to appreciate that in the military/DOD UFO or UAP most often means adversary ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) platforms like drones or satellites or spy planes. "UFO" and "UAP" is not just reserved for ET. It's for ANYTHING that they cannot immediately identify. So, for example, yes, we've intercepted signals from unknown flying objects which we later learned came from the Soviet Union.

Iran has the same issue with us. We fly stealth drones over Iran and initially they had no idea what it was. They were intercepting our signals. Eventually they found out it was American reconnaissance drones.

0

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

3y ago

From the 1957 incident:

Major Chase, in the forward seat, spotted what he first thought were the landing lights of another jet coming in fast from near his 11 o'clock position at, or perhaps a bit above, the RB-47's altitude. He called McCoid's attention to it, noted absence of any navigational lights, and as the single intense bluish-white light continued to close rapidly, he used the intercom to alert the rest of the crew to be ready for sudden evasive maneuvers.

But before he could attempt evasion, he and McCoid saw the brilliant light almost instantaneously change direction and flash across their flight path from port to starboard at an angular velocity that Chase told me he had never seen matched in all of his 20 years of flying, before or after that incident. The luminous source had moved with great rapidity from their 11 o'clock to about their 2 o'clock position and then blinked out.

...At the instant that it blinked out visually and disappeared simultaneously from the #2 monitor and from the radar scopes at Site Utah, it was at a depression angle relative to his position of something like 45 deg.

Chase put the RB-47 into a port turn in the vicinity of Mineral Wells, Texas (Point E), and he and McCoid looked over their shoulders to try to spot the luminous source again. All of the men recalled the near simultaneity with which the object blinked on again visually, appeared on the #2 scope, and was again skinpainted by ground radar at Site Utah. The 1957 report describes these events as follows...

Just my personal opinion, but this doesn't sound like a Soviet aircraft. I could be wrong. Maybe the Soviets had some incredibly insane technology back then.

17

Status_Term_4491

•

3y ago

Lets not forget the soviets were the first to launch sputnik

-1

19 more replies

[deleted]

•

3y ago

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds
r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds
r/UFOs - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs, poll finds

796 upvotes · 130 comments

This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

r/UFOs - This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

youtu

929 upvotes · 291 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

220 upvotes · 218 comments

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

r/UFOs - The U.S. National Security State has illegally suppressed UFO/UAP information for over 80 years, using intimidation and lethal force. Those responsible must face investigation and accountability.

918 upvotes · 99 comments

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs - I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

9

865 upvotes · 127 comments

The Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) confirmed that classified UFO programs have unlawfully withheld information from Congress. This is an illegal system operating beyond constitutional authority and without democratic accountability. What are they hiding?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

The Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) confirmed that classified UFO programs have unlawfully withheld information from Congress. This is an illegal system operating beyond constitutional authority and without democratic accountability. What are they hiding?

r/UFOs - The Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) confirmed that classified UFO programs have unlawfully withheld information from Congress. This is an illegal system operating beyond constitutional authority and without democratic accountability. What are they hiding?

1K upvotes · 106 comments

NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

r/UFOs - NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

472 upvotes · 52 comments

The Biggest Secret in Human History: What Credible People Have Said About UFOs
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

9mo ago

The Biggest Secret in Human History: What Credible People Have Said About UFOs
286 upvotes · 48 comments

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

914 upvotes · 408 comments

A highly classified Air Force report from 1948 titled "Estimate of the Situation" which concluded that UFOs were likely EXTRATERRESTRIAL in origin is about to be made public for the first time by National Archives.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

A highly classified Air Force report from 1948 titled "Estimate of the Situation" which concluded that UFOs were likely EXTRATERRESTRIAL in origin is about to be made public for the first time by National Archives.

r/UFOs - A highly classified Air Force report from 1948 titled "Estimate of the Situation" which concluded that UFOs were likely EXTRATERRESTRIAL in origin is about to be made public for the first time by National Archives.

1.1K upvotes · 70 comments

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs - There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

489 upvotes · 70 comments

USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

21d ago

USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

r/UFOs - USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research

first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

4

780 upvotes · 34 comments

Former nuclear security officer remembers how everything got quieter as a UFO flew above: "As it approached and came over us, it actually deadened sound wherever it moved... Almost like when you stick your head underwater... As soon as it was clear of us, that's when sound returned..."

 r/UFOs

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Former nuclear security officer remembers how everything got quieter as a UFO flew above: "As it approached and came over us, it actually deadened sound wherever it moved... Almost like when you stick your head underwater... As soon as it was clear of us, that's when sound returned..."

596 upvotes · 66 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

 r/UFOs

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

 r/UFOs

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

311 upvotes · 28 comments

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

 r/UFOs

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs - One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

652 upvotes · 211 comments

When Astronomers See UFOs

 r/UFOs

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

When Astronomers See UFOs

65 upvotes · 27 comments

For generations, UFO enthusiasts have longed for claims of aliens visiting Earth to be seriously investigated by scientists. Now they are getting their wish

 r/UFOs

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

For generations, UFO enthusiasts have longed for claims of aliens visiting Earth to be seriously investigated by scientists. Now they are getting their wish

r/UFOs - For generations, UFO enthusiasts have longed for claims of aliens visiting Earth to be seriously investigated by scientists. Now they are getting their wish

scientificamerican

576 upvotes · 50 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

8d ago

Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report

[r/UFOs - Internal Request Reveals the Air Force Tried to Unlock a Hidden CIA UFO Report](#)

unredacted

506 upvotes · 31 comments

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

9d ago

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

14 upvotes · 47 comments

Why has UFO activity been concentrated in the United States, peru and Brazil?

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

6d ago

Why has UFO activity been concentrated in the United States, peru and Brazil?

38 comments

Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

5mo ago

Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

[r/UFOs - Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure](#)

529 upvotes · 88 comments

[R/ufo](#)

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

2mo ago

[R/ufo](#)

[r/UFOs - R/ufo](#)

20 comments

UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

3mo ago

UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

[r/UFOs - UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.](#)

113 upvotes · 7 comments

Community Info Section

[r/UFOs](#)

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good

research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of December 17, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of December 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

TOP SECRET UMBRA

TOP SECRET UMBRA

Discover more from TOP SECRET UMBRA

A Counterintelligence Perspective on Espionage, Terrorism, Deception and Propaganda

Over 11,000 subscribers

Enter your email...

By subscribing, I agree to Substack's Terms of Use, and acknowledge its Information Collection Notice and Privacy Policy.

Already have an account? Sign in

NSA Seems to Be Spying on UFOs

No Such Agency's big ear appears to be listening in on space aliens (or whatever those mysterious objects in the sky are)

John Schindler

Dec 15, 2022

For the better part of a century, it's been a trope among Americans who are interested in Unidentified Flying Objects that the U.S. Government knows the truth about those mysterious lights in the sky, and it's hiding it from the public. Ever since the UFO phenomenon burst into public consciousness shortly after the Second World War, it's been widely held that Washington, DC, knows more than it's saying: The Truth Is Out There (but you can't see it).

Depending on your preferred conspiracy theory, the Pentagon is hiding dead aliens at a hangar at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, or it's testing crashed space vehicles at Area 51 in the Nevada desert. It's easy to dismiss these sketchy stories, not least because UFO sightings have a long habit of happening where the U.S. military tests Top Secret aviation and space technology – and the Pentagon is perfectly happy to let the public (and our enemies) mistake deniable new aircraft for UFOs.

TOP SECRET UMBRA is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support my work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber.

Type your email...

Subscribe

But what if these stories contain at least grains of truth? What if the Pentagon and our intelligence agencies really do know more about the UFO phenomenon than they've previously told the public? This week brings a shocking revelation from the Department of Defense that such conspiracy theories indeed involve truths.

Keep in mind that the Pentagon has been inching towards such reveals for several years now. Five years ago this week, DoD revealed that it was investigating what it terms Unidentified Aerial Phenomena or UAP under the auspices of the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program. The Pentagon's interest here was as much

about concerns that hostile states like China or Russia possessed advanced technology that DoD couldn't match as much as any worry about space aliens.

Exactly what the Pentagon discovered through AATIP remains mysterious. In late June 2021, the Intelligence Community issued an unclassified assessment of the UAP issue which left the matter as unclear as ever. In the IC's estimate, the UAP matter involves "probably multiple types of UAP requiring different explanations based on the range of appearances and behaviors described in the available reporting," adding that "UAP clearly pose a safety of flight issue and may pose a challenge to U.S. national security," while offering nothing of substance about what UAPs really are.

Based on known drone technology, it seems safe to assume that some (perhaps most) of the reports proffered by military personnel, such as sightings of swarms of UAP around DoD aircraft and ships, can be pinned on foreign technology, not space aliens. Three months ago, the Navy pronounced that all its videos featuring UAP (some of which had been seen by the public) were now classified and off-limits since their release "will harm national security as it may provide adversaries valuable information regarding Department of Defense/Navy operations, vulnerabilities, and/or capabilities."

This week brings a new DoD release through the Freedom of Information Act which opens up a whole new front in the endless "What does Uncle Sam secretly know about UFOs?" debate. Back in July, The Black Vault, which specializes in FOIA requests regarding UAP and related spooky matters, asked the Pentagon for more documents related to UAP. On December 12, DoD responded by releasing seven overwhelmingly redacted pages of documents from U.S. Strategic Command, the combatant command which controls our nuclear arsenal. Even though almost all the pages are concealed, what's visible is shocking enough.

The release comes from STRATCOM's Directorate of Intelligence (J2) and consists of two Intelligence Team Activity Reports from 2020, dated July 24 and August 21. These reports are very highly classified – more on that in a moment – and contain revealing hints about what the Pentagon and the IC know about UAP.

The first snippet, from the July 24, 2020, STRATCOM J2 report:

A couple things jump out immediately to the trained spook, aside from the very high classification level (hold that thought). First, UAP here includes the phrase Phenomenology, with is an au courant variation on Phenomena, which was taken by The Black Vault to mean that UAP are real, based on previous AATIP comments. That's controversial plus outside my wheelhouse.

What's very much in my wheelhouse is the reference to the UAP JIATF since that's the DoD/IC term for a Joint Interagency Task Force, which is what the Pentagon and the spooks set up when they need to tackle a difficult challenge with the hush-hush assistance of the full alphabet soup of federal departments and agencies. There are several of these in the U.S. Government, for instance JIATF West (based in Hawaii, which manages counter-narcotics activities in the Pacific region) or JIATF South (based in Key West, which manages the counter-narcotics mission for much of Latin America). It's quite a revelation that Washington has deemed the UAP issue so important that it needs a "whole of government" approach and therefore set up its own JIATF to deal with this sensitive matter.

Then, in a strange turn of events, when The Black Vault asked DoD for clarification on the UAP JIATF, the Pentagon quickly explained it was all a misunderstanding and there was no such thing (even though its own highly classified document mentioned it):

"That was a simple error in terminology – both 'JIATF' and 'Phenomenology' – when USSTRATCOM personnel prepared their internal report. There was not a DoD

JIATF on UAP," said Pentagon Spokesperson Susan Gough in an e-mailed statement to The Black Vault. "We began using 'task force' or 'UAPTF' informally internally shortly before the UAPTF establishment memo was signed on Aug. 4, 2020."

That's as clear as mud to me. Let's now look at the second STRATCOM J2 Intelligence Team Activity Report, dated August 21, 2020:

Note again the reference to the supposedly non-existent UAP JIATF. The "Admiral Richard" mentioned is Navy Admiral Charles Richard, who headed STRATCOM from late 2019 until just last week. This matter was important enough that the nuke boss got the briefing along with his top staff. So did the Secretary of Defense, who in the summer of 2020 was Mark Esper. We have no idea what that highly classified UAP briefing included but it was significant enough that Secretary Esper was "read on" for its contents.

However, the high classification is really the tell. Both snippets are classified TS//SI//TK//NF and, if you know what that means, you grasp the significance.

TS = TOP SECRET, the highest classification level in the U.S. Government, "information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security" per the requisite jargon.

SI = Special Intelligence, which is the handling caveat for intelligence derived from signals intelligence or SIGINT (in the very name of this newsletter, Top Secret Umbra, Umbra is a famous, now former, SI handling codeword); SI comes from the National Security Agency, which "owns" SIGINT for the Intelligence Community.

TK = TALENT KEYHOLE, which is a control caveat for intelligence derived from highly classified technical intelligence platforms, usually spy satellites.

NF = NOFORN, meaning intelligence which is not releasable to foreign nationals and can only be shared with U.S. personnel (unlike a lot of intelligence coming from NSA, which is routinely shared with foreign partners, above all the Five Eyes of the Anglosphere intelligence alliance).

We therefore know that the UAP JIATF's briefing was highly classified, based on SIGINT from NSA, which was collected by spy satellites - and it's something the Pentagon doesn't want shared with even our closest allies. We don't know what kind of SIGINT was involved. It could be communications intelligence or COMINT, which is the intercept of various modes of communications; or it could be electronic intelligence or ELINT, which is the intercept of various non-human communications such as radar emissions. Together, COMINT plus ELINT equals SIGINT.

NSA knows something important here, but we can't assess what it is based on two short snippets from STRATCOM. It could be intercepts of alien communications or radar emissions. That's the little gray men of ufologist imaginations. Or it could be intercepts of communications from hostile militaries testing their advanced drones, which the public thinks are UFOs but really come from China or Russia. In either case, it's a big deal that the public deserves to know more about.

During my time with NSA, it was a stock joke that crashed UFOs were stored in the basement of Agency headquarters at Fort Meade in suburban Maryland. Nobody believed this was true and it was fun gag to try on anyone who asked too many questions. Some three decades ago, an Agency old timer took me to lunch and regaled me, a newbie, with tales of NSA glory from days of yore. Amid stories of

fooling Russians and stealing secrets, he threw in that the Agency possessed an Above Top Secret office that dealt with intercepts of UFO communications. He even said there was a super-secret shop that translated alien languages. I brushed it off as a leg-pull by an old dog close to retirement, something to shock the kids.

Now, I'm not so sure.

Regardless, it would be good if members of Congress ask NSA what it knows here. There's unquestionably public interest in knowing whether UAPs are of extraterrestrial origin or represent an entirely earthy threat to our national security.

TOP SECRET UMBRA is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support my work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber.

Type your email...
Subscribe

YourINT SITREP (01 MAY 2024)
America's campuses have a terrorism problem
May 1, 2024 • John Schindler

Putin's Attack on Ukraine Is a Religious War
Russia's aggression against its neighbor isn't just power politics and geostrategy, it's about core issues of faith and identity
Feb 24, 2022 • John Schindler

Who Really Is Barack Obama? A Counterintelligence Inquiry
Our 44th president harmed the security of America, Israel, and the West - it's time to ask why
Aug 26, 2024 • John Schindler

Ready for more?
Type your email...
Subscribe
© 2025 John Schindler • Privacy • Terms • Collection notice
Start your Substack
Get the app
Substack is the home for great culture
Skip to main content
Pilot UFO photographs over the years, and pilot sightings/analysis by NARCAP. :
r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs
Search in r/UFOs
Log In

Expand user menu

Back
r/UFOs icon
Go to UFOs
r/UFOs
•
3y ago
MKULTRA_Escap

Pilot UFO photographs over the years, and pilot sightings/analysis by NARCAP.
For those interested in UFO encounters involving pilots / passengers on

airplanes, I'm going to provide a bunch of relatively clear photos and a few videos, most of the photos coming from pilots. (I don't necessarily like every single one of these photos, but my opinions are my own. These are presented here as what I am aware of in this category).

For those who don't like UFO photos because a photo doesn't prove anything regardless of how clear it is, I would recommend thumbing through this: <https://www.narcap.org/research> There are tons of pilot sightings and various kinds of analysis. There is enough here to keep a person busy for quite some time, with very little focus on photographs. But for those who want relatively clear photos taken by pilots, see below.

Contrary to popular belief, there are tons of relatively clear and interesting UFO images, including many taken by pilots. However, the problems with UFO images are that 1) UFOs are frequently reported to be metallic spheres and glowing balls of light, like this 1957 incident. In other words, they're often nothing special to look at on film, although there are exceptions. 2) They disappear from the websites hosting them quite often (archive.org is your friend). 3) They are spread so far around on the internet, locating them all is literally impossible, and since so many anonymous people on the internet claim no clear photos exist, even if a person knows how to find them, they likely won't bother because they believed those anonymous people claiming such photos don't exist. 4) Once you do locate them, post it, and they get attention, there is a very clever trick people pull on each other to debunk them as I explained in great detail here. A disqualifying factor/coincidence is literally guaranteed to be found in a genuine photo/video, so of the ones you've come across, odds are they were "debunked" and the debunk sounded convincing due to this illusion and because so many obvious fakes are out there. The clearer it is, the more likely it will get discredited and ridiculed, reducing the amount of people who share it. 5) UFOs appear to be extremely classified, so obviously the clearer it is, the more likely it will get confiscated, but some should slip through the cracks, and have.

Here are a bunch of relatively clear photos all taken by pilots while in the air:

1966 - Provo, Utah. The pilot of a twin engine C-47 "Skytrain" transport aircraft of the USAF captured this detailed, clearly anomalous object on photograph in July, 1966, at 11:00 AM. The aircraft was flying over the Rocky Mountains, at about 40 kilometers southwest of Provo, Utah:
<https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/htm/usafprovo66.htm>

1971 Lake Cote, clear photograph taken accidentally by Costa Rican government aerial mapping team: <https://medium.com/on-the-trail-of-the-saucers/costa-rica-ufo-photo-c0b1eb07c5e7>

1979, June 18, Italy, Maresciallo Cecconi - clear photograph of a tic-tac-shaped UFO taken by military pilot: <https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/the-ufo-case-of-maresciallo-cecconi-june-18-1979/>

1976, Amazon Area, Brazil, pilot requested anonymity and sent this to a Brazilian UFO magazine: <https://www.ufocasebook.com/1976Amazon.jpg>

1988 - San Jacinto, California, July, - This photo was taken by John R. English, past Director of the "International Aerospace Hall of Fame" (IAHF), San Diego Air & Space Historical center. He was involved in the research, selection, and installation of several US and foreign Astronauts, as well as other significant aviation related candidates. He was a Licensed pilot S.E.L. and a "Diamond" level Soaring pilot (18 years), with approx. 400 flight hours logged, 350 in high performance Sailplanes in multiple flight envelopes and conditions. Two aircraft observed the anomaly, and a chase plane photographed it.
<https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/htm/sanjacinto88.htm>

2001 - Budapest, Hungary. A military pilot recorded this shiny, disc shaped UFO

on video tape on September 29, 2001. The pilot stated: "To my left, I saw a bright metal aircraft that was the shape of a perfect disc. I was careful to film the object, not to try and chase it since I could not match its speed."
<https://web.archive.org/web/20130409022047/http://www.ufoevidence.org/photographs/section/post2000/Photo62.htm>

Mid 50s Rouen, France, taken by gun sight camera:
<https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/htm/picamafro3.htm> (this is very similar to McMinnville 1950)

Here's one from Oregon, 2012, supposedly debunked as a "grease stain" or dead insect: <http://photobuster.blogspot.com/2012/11/inspiegabile-ufo-in-oregon-non-per.html> u/almost-famoose has an original copy.

1947 - Morristown, New Jersey. On the morning of July 10, 1947, John H. Janssen, editor of the Daily Record (an American aviation journal) was flying his own plane from Morristown Airport in New Jersey. He spotted six, luminous spherical craft with hazy rings around them flying in a trail high in the sky above him. He grabbed his camera and shot a picture. He was only able to get four of the six objects in the image frame. Two weeks later, on July 23rd, he had another encounter of what looked to him like the same or very similar aircraft. He was again flying his airplane out of Morristown, and was at 6,000 ft.
<https://www.ufocasebook.com/morristownlarge.jpg>

Pilot David Hastings took a photo of a UFO while flying over the Mojave Desert, September 9, 1985, 2 witnesses: <https://imgur.com/RDhY0cP> Video of his testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYth-kPrQMg>

Pilots photographing UFOs from the ground:

1987 - Connecticut - Randy Etting was taking a walk outside his home. A commercial airline pilot with over 30 years experience, he always looked at the sky... he saw a number of orange and red lights approaching from the west.
https://newengland.com/wp-content/uploads/UFOs_Etting.jpg

Civilians who took photos/videos of UFOs from an airplane:

Here's a passenger video. Note the speed, moving in the same direction as the plane, but much faster. Make sure you watch until they provide a slowdown and closeups: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajbwQ7wairU> I don't know anything about this video as I couldn't locate it anywhere else online. EDIT: the original upload is gone, but here is a reupload:
<https://twitter.com/SKY3691111/status/1608921084417703937>

Pretty clear footage taken DEC. 19, 2012 while en route to CHICAGO, IL from NEW YORK CITY: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xwe78d> The clearest shot is at 18 seconds.

Uploaded August 7, 2011, airline passenger films extremely fast object, moves in the same direction as the plane, ruling out most mundane explanations:
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/qnpn03/ufo_filmed_by_passenger_on_airplane_uploaded/

Lima, Peru 1967- This is the only surviving photo of the funnel-shaped flying object that paced the Fawcett Airlines DC-4 passenger liner in flight from Piura to Lima on February 2, 1967, at 06:30 P.M. The passengers were all held for interrogation by authorities after the plane landed. Several of the passengers had taken photos of the strange craft alongside the airliner, but all cameras were taken and all film was confiscated. One passenger, who insisted on remaining anonymous, succeeded in saving his film from which this single photograph was made. <https://www.ufocasebook.com/limaperularge.jpg>

Here is a video taken by an airline passenger, multiple witnesses, showing instantaneous movement and clear video of the object:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhCiRwyJLI8> However, the coincidence that the person filming happened to work in special effects on a few alien-themed movies is how this was debunked as a fake, even though a coincidence of this nature is actually expected to be found in a genuine video anyway as I proved here. (aside from that, several anonymous users from this subreddit claim they analyzed the video and concluded it was fake. Make of that what you will).

If you want to thumb through all of the other photos out there not associated with an airplane, here are like 500 photos: Archive 1. Keep clicking 'next' to scroll through the archive, or mess around with the menu on the side to sort them. Archive 2, Archive 3, Archive 4, Archive 5, Archive 6. While I personally would not have chosen some of these photos in some of these archives as examples of what are probably genuine photos (I see a couple birds, an example of bokeh, etc), some of them are really clear shots depicting anomalous flying objects.

Edit: added a few more.

132

.

23

Comments Section

drollere

•

3y ago

an aerial photo i find especially important is the snap by a passenger (not the pilot) of a commercial flight, the 2007 Alderney GBR 23 April event that the flight captain Roy Bowyer described as "large as a small town".

the original photo and some enhanced versions are shown here. the pilot's drawing of the observable is shown on the wikipedia page.

in general i have found visual descriptions of UFO to correspond poorly to the actual observable documented in video or a photograph, which has convinced me to treat witness descriptions of shape or form as less reliable evidence. i don't say they should be dismissed; there are just too many perceptual factors involved in making an accurate observation and corresponding drawing or verbal report.

9

Nacho_Libre_Ahora

•

3y ago

Thank you for posting this image (I did know existed). I have been a huge follower and firm believer, of this 2007 sighting based on witnesses descriptions, veracity and credibility.

2

[deleted]

•

3y ago

The top link is broken and the drawing is missing from the Wikipedia page....weird

2

u/Plimpus1620 avatar

Plimpus1620

•

3y ago

Not weird at all, as this stuff is being scrubbed of from the internet on daily basis. Smells very fishy.

1

AntiSoci

•

3y ago

Great job putting this together 🤖

11

[deleted]

•

3y ago

Thanks for all the hard work on this thread, I always learn something new from your threads.

4

u/OraclesPath00 avatar

OraclesPath00

•

3y ago

Great job putting all this together. Even before my sightings, I leaned more that UAPs exist simply because of the amount of evidence out there. 1 or 2 pictures, ok maybe something else...but we have hundreds if not thousands. And the statistics that all of them are some prosaic answer...literally defies the laws of probability.

15

[deleted]

•

3y ago

Joseph-Kay

•

3y ago

It's posts like these which really keep me coming back to r/ufos. So much legitimate content to explore, I love it

4

u/WetnessPensive avatar

WetnessPensive

•

3y ago

Mid 50s Rouen, France, taken by gun sight camera:

NICAP investigated this one heavily, and thought it's most likely (<http://www.nicap.org/france57rep.htm>) just a retouched (for a tabloid) version of the Trent hoax, and its source made up.

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

3y ago

I'm aware. The Trent photos were debunked as a vehicle side view mirror (and hubcap, etc) despite the fact that a coincidence of this sort is likely to be found in a genuine image anyway. The Rouen photo is too similar to McMinnville, therefore also a hoax (although I disagree that McMinnville was a hoax in the first place).

But photo analysts often disagree with one another. For example:
<https://nexusnewsfeed.com/article/geopolitics/alleged-ufo-photographed-over-china-lake-usa/>

I'm sure you've also seen the proof that coincidences are expected to be found

anyway as shown in the post.

3

JCPLee

•

3y ago

<https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/pics/usafprovo6601.jpg>

Did you even read the report?

"Conclusion: In view of the discrepancies, detailed analysis of the photographs did not seem justifiable. They were returned to the officer with our comment that they obviously could not be used by us to support claims that the object photographed was other than an ordinary object of earthly origin thrown into the air."

Is this all it takes to convince people that ET is here? A likely fake blurry photos which was discredited decades ago. Now I know why people are so deeply invested in the phenomena.

2

u/ASearchingLibrarian avatar

ASearchingLibrarian

•

3y ago

Thanks for the list.

Would just add this one from the Hearing in May 2022.

Video 1 2021 Flyby.mov || <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JlyCL1NrjI>

This one doesn't get the credit it deserves I think. A lot of people complained it was unimpressive when it was first released, which sort of did the job of the people who would rather nothing was released - if even the UFO crowd complain about the images captured by military pilots and designated as unknowns by Pentagon officials, then the work of the debunkers is already done.

Chris Lehto did a great analysis of this short video where he estimated the object was 2-2.5 ft in diameter and was possibly 80 ft from the aircraft -- F18 Pilot iPhone shot- The Only UFO video released by the Task Force || <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeYLDkat68Q&t=741s>

When this was shown at the Hearing, Scott Bray said --

"There it was. That's, in many cases, that's all that a report may include, and in many other cases we have far less than this. As we detailed in both the unclassified and classified versions of the Preliminary Assessment released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence last June, this often limited amount of high quality data and reporting hampers our ability to draw firm conclusions about the nature or intent of UAP."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSDweUbGBow&t=1549s>

Well, no actually. There is no way a fighter jet gets to within 100 ft of a 2.5 ft object at 1,000 kmh without radar and or IR, and maybe other sensors deployed. Clearly this case included those other sensors, and clearly the pilot was deliberately close to the object because it was part of a mission - they went close to the object in possibly more than one flyby to deliberately collect data. And despite all this data collected, they still said this was an unidentified object, shown in a film before the Congress and the world. Not a balloon. If it was a balloon they would have enough data to verify that. So what was it that the pilot thought was important enough to get close to and capture the data for us?

Particularly weird about the object is the dark shadow like area to one side. This could be just an effect of the camera (the camera was moving at 1,000 kmh

at the time after all), but it makes the object appear to be a bit more unusual than just a spherical balloon like object.

Shame everyone poured cold water on this and complained about it when it was released because this is without doubt the most significant image of a bone fide UFO available this year. It is the only image we have that we can almost be certain relates to the Range Foulter Reports, it was captured on multiple sensors, the pilot was vectored to capture the data, and senior Pentagon officials are on the record saying this remains unidentifiable.

13

u/who_knows2023 avatar

who_knows2023

•

3y ago

Thank you for posting this

3

u/--ddiibb-- avatar

--ddiibb--

•

3y ago

very cool, thanks for all the time you took to put these together

1

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of December 29, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of December 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

More posts you may like

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UF0s - I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

9

865 upvotes · 127 comments

My first UFO sighting

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

8mo ago

My first UFO sighting

r/UF0s - My first UFO sighting

718 upvotes · 56 comments

Pilot Reports a "silver canister" UFO Just Flying By his Plane

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

11d ago

Pilot Reports a "silver canister" UFO Just Flying By his Plane

r/UF0s - Pilot Reports a "silver canister" UFO Just Flying By his Plane

1K upvotes · 52 comments

UFO Sighting

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

1mo ago

UFO Sighting

r/UF0s - UFO Sighting

5

206 upvotes · 49 comments

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2d ago

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UF0s - My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

2.8K upvotes · 263 comments

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

26d ago

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UF0s - That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

2.2K upvotes · 199 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

Some of the best UFO photos ever captured

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

3mo ago

Some of the best UFO photos ever captured

315 upvotes · 63 comments

Which type of UFO have you seen?

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

4mo ago

Which type of UFO have you seen?

r/UFOs - Which type of UFO have you seen?

2.3K upvotes · 1.2K comments

Where do I send ufo sightings officially?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

Where do I send ufo sightings officially?

r/UFOs - Where do I send ufo sightings officially?

110 upvotes · 81 comments

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs - Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

549 upvotes · 172 comments

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

914 upvotes · 408 comments

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs - One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

652 upvotes · 211 comments

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs - UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

91 upvotes · 11 comments

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs - There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

489 upvotes · 70 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

1950's UFO

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

1950's UFO

r/UFOs - 1950's UFO

114 upvotes · 27 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

311 upvotes · 28 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

r/UFOs - Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

reveil

164 upvotes · 95 comments

R/ufos

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

R/ufos

r/UFOs - R/ufos

20 comments

Why has UFO activity been concentrated in the United States, peru and Brazil?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6d ago

Why has UFO activity been concentrated in the United States, peru and Brazil?

38 comments

UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

r/UFOs - UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

113 upvotes · 7 comments

An update to my UFO map
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

An update to my UFO map
r/UFOs - An update to my UFO map
143 upvotes · 35 comments

Part 3 - Direct links to historical UFO reports, 1840s - 1970s

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

Part 3 - Direct links to historical UFO reports, 1840s - 1970s
33 upvotes · 6 comments

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

19 ads blocked

18% space saved! Skip to main content

UFO information from other countries, and debunking esri.com's cherrypicked UFO sightings map : r.aliens

Open menu

r.aliens

Search in r.aliens

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r.aliens icon

Go to aliens

r.aliens

•

3y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

UFO information from other countries, and debunking esri.com's cherrypicked UFO sightings map

As I'm sure everyone is aware, over the last several years, esri.com's "A Century of UFO Sightings" received enormous publicity. Here is a tweet from a couple weeks ago with 4 million views:

<https://twitter.com/Xongkuro/status/1657553674942525440>

Other people have made their own variations of the argument. For example, here's a tweet with 18 million views:

<https://twitter.com/bosslogic/status/1624765274498154497>

3,000 points on r.mapporn:

https://np.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/xfq4s9/deleted_by_user/

Another older post with the map:

<https://twitter.com/qikipedia/status/1411671138355253256>

370,000 views on a Michael Shermer tweet:

<https://twitter.com/michaelshermer/status/1685130412094550016>

But you can find tons of these. There has been a steady stream of references to

this map since its inception, but even before this map was created, the argument has been there all along. People falsely claim that the vast majority of UFO sightings happen in the US, implying that the concept of UFOs must be a cultural issue, not a reality.

However, esri.com states in the description on their video, the data source is NUFORC, which is a US-based, English language UFO information collection org. Of course it will be heavily biased towards English language reports, primarily US, exactly as the map implies.

Previous to this, another variation of this map from Larry Hatch was floating around. Here is the distribution of sightings in Europe.

A post on Ask an Astronomer says:

But to me, it seems a little far-fetched that aliens would recognize national borders, and visit one country much more than another if the two countries are geographically close, and similar in population, population density, and economic development. So a map like this suggests to me that UFO sightings are likely to be a cultural phenomenon.

However, if you actually read the text on the page with the map on it, it says:

Note the disproportionate sightings densities for Britain and France, compared to Germany, Holland and points east. The biggest single reason is that Larry Hatch can't read German, Dutch, Polish etc., introducing a very definite "cultural bias".

That is a very different kind of "cultural bias" than people have been claiming. The actual problem is the language barrier, preventing knowledge of sightings spreading from one country to another, but people have been insisting that it actually means UFOs are all made up nonsense and the result of "UFO culture." But if you actually look for information on UFOs in other countries, the distribution of sightings is surprisingly consistent across all countries that I have found information on.

Numbers comparison between countries:

I have a quick preliminary tally on some of the total unknowns and total sightings per country below, and the US doesn't seem any different from other countries, especially when you adjust for population. It is extremely surprising that the amount of unknowns, and even the percentage of unknowns, is about what you should expect. If anyone has more info, please add in the comments, but there is already enough here to completely debunk esri.com's map.

Total Sightings collected by a government- United States: 12,618 collected during Bluebook era, plus several hundred more in later investigations, so 13,128. France: 1,600. Uruguay 2,100. Denmark 15,000.

Total Unknowns- United States: 701 during Bluebook era, total of 872. Denmark: 200. France: 400. Uruguay: 40. Germany: 500 (not official tally for Germany)

Comparison 1, Unknowns: Uruguay has about 3 and a half million people with 40 unknowns, whereas the US has 330 million+ with 872 unknowns. The US has almost 100 times the amount of people, so if Uruguay had the same population, they would have about 4,000 unknowns. Uruguay actually has far more unknowns than expected when you adjust for population.

Comparison 2, Total Sightings: Uruguay has about 2,100 total sightings, whereas the US has 14,000 collected by a government. The United States has almost 100X the population, so Uruguay should have approximately 200,000 sightings if their populations were similar.

Comparison 3, total sightings and total unknowns- France has 1,600 cases, of

which about 400 are unknowns. The population of France is 65 million, or about one fifth the population of the US. This means if they had the same population as the US, France would have 8,000 sightings and 2,000 unknowns, which is very similar to the United States, which has 14,000 sightings and 872 unknowns.

[Note: the numbers are going to be off a little bit because different countries started tracking UFOs later on, different requirements for collection, etc, but it doesn't matter that much. These are ballpark comparisons from what governments have collected]

[Note 2: Between Mufon and Nuforc, they collected maybe 10 times as many reports as the government did for the US. However, if we were to do a fair comparison, we can only compare between countries in which several civilian UFO organizations from that country collected reports over similar periods of time. Restricting to government collected reports is at least a fair way to do it because we have more information. And even if we compared the US civilian-collected numbers to Uruguay's officially collected reports, Uruguay still beats the US when adjusted for population (100k+ versus 200k), and the same for Canada. Germany, a much smaller country, also has way more total civilian collected reports than the US as well.]

UFO cases collected by Governments:

United States (population 330 million, 13,128 UFO cases, 872 unknowns):

By the time Project Blue Book ended in 1970, it had collected 12,618 UFO reports... 701 reports were classified as unexplained, even after stringent analysis. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Blue_Book

These 366 additional reports, when combined with the 144 reports identified in the preliminary assessment, bring the total UAP reports catalogued to date to 510.

Since its establishment in July 2022, AARO has formulated and started to leverage a robust analytic process against identified UAP reporting. Once completed, AARO's final analytic findings will be available in their quarterly reports to policymakers. AARO's initial analysis and characterization of the 366 newly-identified reports, informed by a multi-agency process, judged more than half as exhibiting unremarkable characteristics:

- 26 characterized as Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) or UAS-like entities;
- 163 characterized as balloon or balloon-like entities; and
- 6 attributed to clutter.

Initial characterization does not mean positively resolved or unidentified. This initial characterization better enables AARO and ODNI to efficiently and effectively leverage resources against the remaining 171 uncharacterized and unattributed UAP reports. Some of these uncharacterized UAP appear to have demonstrated unusual flight characteristics or performance capabilities, and require further analysis.

<https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Unclassified-2022-Annual-Report-UAP.pdf>

France (population 65 million, 1,600 UFO cases, 400 unknowns):

The team is called Geipan. That's a French acronym for Study Group and Information on Non-Identified Aerospace Phenomenon. Its boss is Xavier Passot. Surrounded by dozens of books on UFOs, and stacks of documents, he tells me his mission is to be as transparent as possible about strange sightings and to follow up on each one that his team receives. They publish their results on their website which gets 30,000 hits a month. The team receives, on average, two UFO sightings a day. The department insists an 11-page form is filled out for

each one. The idea is to provide details including photographs where possible but also weed out jokers and time-wasters. ... But there are around 400 UFO sightings going back to the 1970s that the French team cannot explain.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-29755919>

Of the 1600 cases registered since 1954, nearly 25% are classified as "type D", meaning that "despite good or very good data and credible witnesses, we are confronted with something we can't explain", Patenet says.
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn11443-france-opens-up-its-ufo-files/>

Uruguay (population 3,500,000, 2,100 cases, 40 Unknowns):

The Uruguayan Air Force has had an ongoing UFO investigation since 1989 and analyzed 2,100 cases, of which they only consider about 40 (2 percent) to be definitely lacking any conventional explanation.
https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Ultimate_Collection_on_UFOs/eQj1AwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=uruguayan+air+force+ufo&pg=PA160&printsec=frontcover

Canada (population 39 million, 20,000 UFO cases):

The talk and presentation mark Rutkowski's donation to University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections of his extensive personal collection and files on this case and other UFO sightings and related phenomena from across Canada. These include more than 20,000 separate UFO reports filed with various agencies since 1989 <https://news.umanitoba.ca/the-falcon-lake-ufo-files/>

Sweden, Norway, Finland (5-10 percent unexplained)

Ghost Fliers, winter of 1933/34-

During this first winter, sighting reports of actual aircraft or a body of a craft were scarce. Many reports consisted of bright lights or the sound of an engine heard from the sky, in some instances both. Venus and Sirius were prominent in the southern sky during the entire winter and continued to cause reports in the press and the military. It is worth mentioning that more than fifty percent of the reports were made between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., when Venus was low over the horizon.

That a foreign intruder would carry bright lights, or any other lights, on its aircraft was something that Air Force commander Eric Virgin ruled impossible: "It should be obvious for everyone that no pilot trying to intrude over populated areas would use a searchlight or carry its marker lights." said General Virgin in an interview. His opinion was later seconded by the former Swedish military attache to London, Erland Mossberg, in another interview.

When the hunt stopped in March, 96 reports had been filed by the Swedish military, but the total of sightings published in the newspapers was many times that figure. In Finland, the military had received 157 reports and in Norway 234; in total 487 reports were sent through official channels. The result of the investigation was a harsh statement: "There have never been any Ghost Fliers."

Not everyone agreed. General Pontus Reutersward published his own statement a couple of weeks later, summarizing the reports in a different way. According to the general, several reports during January had been of real but unidentified aircraft. "It could not be denied that a violation of our nation's air space has been going on."

In another twist, the Swedish military, through its Chief of Staff, published its final report on the Ghost Flier in early July 1935, more than a year after the wave had ceased. After concluding that 42 of the 487 reports investigated by the three countries were of actual aircraft violating the borders, the General Staff now admitted that the Ghost Flier was real. "It must be concluded that aircraft whose nationality has not been established have flown over Northern

Scandinavia during the winter of 1933-1934," the report said.

The 1950s, Sweden-

During the 1950s, the Swedish Defence staff not only collected but also investigated hundreds of alleged sightings of unidentified flying objects from all over Sweden. Extensive archives, now at the Defence Research Institute, show a dedicated staff making a great effort to solve the many reports.

"We did get reports from several sources--the general public, the local military organizations, in different parts of Sweden, and from the central air control," says Peter Sundh, who from October 1951 until October 1954 was head of a unit at the Defence Staff responsible for investigating reports about UFOs. During this time, his department handled 6,000 reports, of which 400 were investigated and around 40 remained unexplained.

"We always tried to verify the reports, make a thorough interrogation and never had a superior attitude towards the witnesses. Even when we took the reports higher up in the hierarchy, no one laughed at the concept of aliens or flying saucers. There were always these five to ten percent that we never could explain."

-UFOs and Government- a Historical Inquiry, by Michael Swords, Robert Powell, and others. (link to Google books)

Additional information: <http://www.cagliostro.se/2011/05/02/the-ghost-fliers-2775134>

Spain (population 47 million, no useful numbers):

UFO sightings in Spain are in excess of 7,000, but less than 2 percent of these have been reported to the Spanish Air Force (people may not have known they could, or how to report such things to the Air Force). Out of 122 cases analyzed by an international team directed by Ballester Olmos, 99 had conventional causes, 14 insufficient data for evaluation, 9 unexplained. - UFOs and Government, Michael Swords and Robert Powell, page 430.

Denmark (population 6 million, 15,000 sightings, 200 Unknowns)

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Jan. 30 (UPI) -- The Danish Air Force has released 329 pages of previously classified archives on UFO sightings, including details on more than 200 unsolved cases. https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2009/01/30/Denmark-releases-UFO-archives/90411233360944/

The Danish Air Force has opened its UFO files, which were treated as state secret up until today. The archive features information on over 15,000 reported extraterrestrial sightings. <https://denmark.net/denmarks-secret-ufo-files/>

Danish UFO Files <https://archive.org/details/DanishUFOFiles/page/n21/mode/2up>

New Zealand (population 5 million, no useful numbers yet):

Unidentified flying objects (UFO) files : copies for release to the public / By New Zealand. Defence Force.

"These copied and redacted files of correspondence ... dating from 1952 to 2009 have been declassified and released to the public ... under the Official Information Act ... The files contain reports of sightings by private individuals and military personnel, investigations by Defence and other government departments and agencies into these reports, newspaper clippings on UFOs and letters from individuals who claim to be in touch with alien beings and craft"--Preliminaries. <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22979464>

Civilian UFO case collection:

Germany (population 85 million, 140,000 sightings, of which 5 percent are unexplained, 500 cases with no possible explanation):

"Germany has a high level of UFO sightings," Robert Fleischer, the coordinator for the German Initiative for Exopolitics, told Deutsche Welle.

He said that, since 1974, over 500 so-called "real" UFO cases - reported sightings that, after careful consideration by specialized experts, cannot be related to any conventional information - have been recorded.

"However, there has never been any official recognition by the German government relating to UFOs or UFO activity," Fleischer added. "So if the Germans were to open any files relating to UFOs, all we would find out is that they pass all their information to the Americans." <https://www.dw.com/en/despise-partial-disclosure-europes-ufo-files-remain-mostly-under-wraps/a-4783950>

In Germany, there seems to be an endless list of hobby clubs and nonprofit associations. The Association for UFO Research (GEP) is one of them. Their databank includes 140,000 entries, and 95% of them can be explained. <https://www.dw.com/en/ufos-and-aliens-in-germany/a-58077707>

Japan (population 125 million):

In a small town in Japan of 5,000 people, the town had about 450 sightings in one year: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/trending/news/home-of-aliens-japanese-town-has-452-ufo-sightings-in-one-year-viral-story-fukushima-japan-2023-05-03-868661> But I would prefer a better citation than indiatvnews.com.

If anyone has any information and citations to contribute, please add in the comments. I know I'm missing a lot of information on various other countries, some of which have had official UFO agencies, but it's difficult for me to locate the information.

Edit: added information about ghost fliers and UFOs in Scandanavia, 1933-50s.
Edit 2: added another example of the "map" being shared.

26

.

6

Comments Section

u/DIEXEL avatar

DIEXEL

•

3y ago

I wouldn't trust any of the UFO associations out there regardless country, because their main purpose is to collect these sort of reports and suppress the most serious ones. I bet also in the developing countries, witnesses believe that they see something belonging to the religion they practice or they report it to the authorities but the authorities don't make it public.

I reported the UFO I saw (evening) and heard (late morning and which also included two fighter jets) on Dec 1st, 2020 to the Swedish UFO Association (UFO-Sweden). But after their investigation became a such F joke because I believe that the Swedish Armed Forces intervened and put pressure on them to suppress the report. I haven't report any other stuff to the F-ers. The other stuff is way more serious than what I experienced on Dec 1st. It has been among other things encounters and interactions with an interdimensional humanoid and an another alien humanoid (if that thing was also interdimensional I don't know), time lost, abduction(s?), communicating with my mind about what we actually live in etc. Seriously, it could be so many reports to them if they really wanted to investigate instead of be Swedish Armed Forces' little b*tch.

VerySaltyTomato

•

2y ago

South America should have a huge sighting heatmap? Like.. 80% of all UFO/UAP videos seems to originate there..

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

2y ago

Yea, I actually did have information about one or two SA countries a couple years ago, but I guess I never saved it. Maybe Brazil and Chile? All I need are numbers of UFOs reported to an official entity in a country and the percentage of unknowns left after investigation. I'm surprised I found what I did so far, but I know there is a huge lack of info here for SA and it's out there somewhere.

Some of these countries have official government entities that study UFOs and have done so for many years, so you'd think it would be simple to find, but apparently not.

2

u/Low-Ad-9044 avatar

Low-Ad-9044

•

2y ago

Bolivia is one country which deals with a lot of UFO activity and has been for many years. Their government doesn't hide it from their citizens at all.

1

Lost_Sky76

•

2y ago

Great job bro

1

u/Master_Ad_4659 avatar

Master_Ad_4659

•

2y ago

This is what I thought when I saw the source but with a lot less attention to detail, thank you! If I have time when I'm on a larger screen I would run this through some LLM to see what it might come up with. If I do I will definitely post back but I would encourage everyone to give it a go and see what they've come up with, I find them to be fairly pragmatic about the UFO / UAP topic.

1

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most compelling evidence of alien life

Fascinating theories about ancient aliens

Impact of UFO sightings on society

Documentaries on extraterrestrial encounters

Unexplained phenomena linked to aliens

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you

understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/alien - The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

1.8K upvotes · 140 comments

Ufo Sighting!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

Ufo Sighting!

r/alien - Ufo Sighting!

116 upvotes · 39 comments

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

100 upvotes · 148 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

125 upvotes · 124 comments

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

13 upvotes · 41 comments

When Astronomers See UFOs

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

When Astronomers See UFOs

26 upvotes · 9 comments

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

10mo ago

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

43 comments

Ufo Sighting England 2025

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Ufo Sighting England 2025

r/alien - Ufo Sighting England 2025

9 comments

The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's most witnessed UFO encounter - 200+ Witnesses. Thoughts?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's most witnessed UFO encounter - 200+ Witnesses. Thoughts?

r/alien - The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's most witnessed UFO encounter - 200+ Witnesses. Thoughts?

thehiddenarchive

48 upvotes · 28 comments

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, alien

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

20d ago

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, alien

r/alien - In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, alien

80 upvotes · 12 comments

Australia's biggest Mass UFO sighting - Why did the military show up within minutes? Why were 200+ students and teachers warned to stay quiet? This case definitely raises more questions than answers. What's your thoughts on this one?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

Australia's biggest Mass UFO sighting - Why did the military show up within minutes? Why were 200+ students and teachers warned to stay quiet? This case definitely raises more questions than answers. What's your thoughts on this one?

r/alien - Australia's biggest Mass UFO sighting - Why did the military show up within minutes? Why were 200+ students and teachers warned to stay quiet? This case definitely raises more questions than answers. What's your thoughts on this one?

thehiddenarchive

356 upvotes · 36 comments

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien - A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

thehiddenarchive

354 upvotes · 149 comments

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

259 upvotes · 105 comments

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

45 upvotes · 34 comments

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

20d ago

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r/alien - UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims
co

517 upvotes · 168 comments

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

5mo ago

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/alien - Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

47 upvotes · 22 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

196 upvotes · 16 comments

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/alien - On The Origin of UFOs.

1K upvotes · 29 comments

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

r/alien - It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

338 upvotes · 63 comments

"This is the biggest discovery in human history. It (UFO/UAP Disclosure) has so many beneficial impacts, including clean energy."

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

2mo ago

"This is the biggest discovery in human history. It (UFO/UAP Disclosure) has so many beneficial impacts, including clean energy."

r/alien - "This is the biggest discovery in human history. It (UFO/UAP Disclosure) has so many beneficial impacts, including clean energy."

351 upvotes · 52 comments

50-minutes of UFO videos and photos from all over the world

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

50-minutes of UFO videos and photos from all over the world

r/alien - 50-minutes of UFO videos and photos from all over the world

youtu

100 upvotes · 9 comments

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/alien - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

214 upvotes · 29 comments

Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

26d ago

Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

r/alien - Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

55 upvotes · 15 comments

British UFO hearing planned

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

British UFO hearing planned

32 upvotes · 12 comments

Community Info Section

r/alien

Join

Alien

A community dedicated to discussing alien life through news, experiences, speculation and investigation. Please keep content related to extra-terrestrials or non-human intelligence behind the UAP phenomenon.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of May 29, 2023

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of May 2023

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2023

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

11th century UFO sighting reported by Chinese polymathic scientist and statesman Shen Kuo. The object, nicknamed "The Pearl," had doors, hovered, and was able to take off at tremendous speeds. The sighting occurred around 1060 A.D, reported by multiple witnesses, and returned several times. : r/alien

Open menu

r/alien

Search in r/alien

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/aliens icon

Go to aliens

r/aliens

•

7y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

11th century UFO sighting reported by Chinese polymathic scientist and statesman Shen Kuo. The object, nicknamed "The Pearl," had doors, hovered, and was able to take off at tremendous speeds. The sighting occurred around 1060 A.D, reported by multiple witnesses, and returned several times.

This UFO sighting was briefly discussed on the website of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It's mentioned on their page dedicated to Shen Kuo, although it doesn't really do the sighting justice.

Dream Pool Essays also contains probably the first ever mention of an unidentified flying object, a mysterious entity that apparently made regular appearances in the sky over Fanliang in Yangzhou province. It was observed to open its door to emit a great light. "The spectacle was like the rising Sun, lighting up the distant sky and woods in red." The object was nicknamed "the Pearl" by a local poet and the Pearl Pavilion was built as a viewing platform for tourists.

<https://www.aaas.org/shen-kuo-first-renaissance-man>

One of Shen Kuo's works was called Dream Pool Essays. Here is a brief description of the relevant passage and the UFO sighting:

A passage called "Strange Happenings" contains a peculiar account of an unidentified flying object. Shen wrote that, during the reign of Emperor Renzong (1022-1063), an object as bright as a pearl occasionally hovered over the city of Yangzhou at night, but described first by local inhabitants of eastern Anhui and then in Jiangsu.[19] Shen wrote that a man near Xingkai Lake observed this curious object; allegedly it:

...opened its door and a flood of intense light like sunbeams darted out of it, then the outer shell opened up, appearing as large as a bed with a big pearl the size of a fist illuminating the interior in silvery white. The intense silver-white light, shot from the interior, was too strong for human eyes to behold; it cast shadows of every tree within a radius of ten miles. The spectacle was like the rising Sun, lighting up the distant sky and woods in red. Then all of a sudden, the object took off at a tremendous speed and descended upon the lake like the Sun setting.[20]

Shen went on to say that Yibo, a poet of Gaoyou, wrote a poem about this "pearl" after witnessing it. Shen wrote that since the "pearl" often made an appearance around Fanliang in Yangzhou, the people there erected a "Pearl Pavilion" on a wayside, where people came by boat in hopes to see the mysterious flying object. [21]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dream_Pool_Essays

Wikipedia on Shen Kuo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shen_Kuo

Shen Kuo thought that the witness testimonies were credible enough to include in his book, and the descriptions of the object bear a striking resemblance to much later sightings. Keep in mind that this occurred long before modern day science fiction works, so the sighting could not have been tainted by modern culture.

Edit: Another translation from Shi Bo, La Chine et les Extraterrestres, op.cit.,

26.

"In the middle of the reign of emperor Jia You [1056-1063], at Yangzhou, in the Jiangsu province, an enormous pearl was seen especially in gloomy weather. At first it appeared in the marsh of the Tianchang district, passed by the lake of Bishe and disappeared finally in the Xinkai lake. The inhabitants of that region and travelers saw it frequently over a period of ten years. I have a friend who lives on the edge of the lake.

One evening, he looked through the window and saw the luminous pearl near his house. He half-opened his door and the light entered, illuminating the room with its brightness. The pearl was round, with a gold-colored ring around it. Suddenly, it enlarged considerably and became bigger than a table. In its centre, the luminary was white and silvery, and the intensity was such that it could not be looked at straight on. "

The light it emitted even reached trees that were some 5 kilometers away and as a result these cast their shadow on the ground; the faraway sky was all alight. Finally, the round luminous object began to move at a breathtaking speed and landed on the water between the waves, like a rising sun.

As the pearl often made its appearance in the town of Fanliang in Yangzhou, the inhabitants, who had seen it frequently, built a wayside pavilion and named it "The Pearl Pavilion." Inquisitive people often came from afar by boat, waiting for a chance to see the unpredictable pearl.

Edit: This case is also covered in The Columbia History of Chinese Literature, page 561-562, on Shen Kuo's "Strange Happenings."

Screenshot of relevant translation: <https://imgur.com/a/TiLNqOJ>

Source: https://books.google.com/books?id=5aSrAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA562&dq=brush+talks+from+dream+brook+strange+happenings&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiV-70Mo_bjAhWkTd8KHbJ0Ah8Q6AEIKDAA#v=onepage&q=brush%20talks%20from%20dream%20brook%20strange%20happenings&f=false

365

.

30

Comments Section

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

7y ago

One thing I forgot to mention: The descriptions are very vivid and the person reporting the information was a scientist and scholar in a variety of subjects, including astronomy, mathematics, physics, and meteorology. Suffice it to say this guy knew the difference between a description of a meteor and an inexplicable advanced craft.

You can learn more about Shen Kuo in the links provided.

From the AAAS web page:

The Dream Pool Essays contained the first mention of the magnetic compass. Shen recognized that magnetic north was not true north and correctly figured out the declination. He also realized that the polar star was actually a circumpolar star and through careful observation with an instrument of his own invention, he charted its rotation. These were not idle observations but were incorporated into Chinese navigation practices.

Shen Kuo and his colleague Wei Pu made accurate astronomical observations of the moon and planets by observing them three times a night over the course of five

years, a project not matched until Tycho Brahe's extensive observations, 500 years later.

30

u/havanabananallama avatar
havanabananallama

•

7y ago

It's funny how sometimes these things appear to very particular people, as if they were chosen, maybe because of their fame/credibility or social/political power - some, are seemingly random - but isn't it interesting to think 'they' choose who they want to witness them?

11

u/windsynth avatar
windsynth

•

7y ago

Others claiming such things might have been simply dismissed

8

[deleted]

•

7y ago

Or because of his larger than usual interest in these topics made him more creative in his thinking / imagination... hmmm

1

[deleted]

•

7y ago

BlueBolt76

•

7y ago

It was probably secret highly advanced u.s military technology being tested.

20

u/Ascurtis avatar
Ascurtis

•

7y ago

I know you're joking but what if these were the craft that the gov somehow got their hands on a thousand years later? Then what you said could be the truth

3

BlueBolt76

•

7y ago

Yeah but I would think the odds fall with the previous owners.

2

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

7y ago

/s?

3

[deleted]

•

7y ago

This is pretty interesting! The "pearl on top of a bed" description definitely resembles a saucer when you envision the craft with the bubble top, then turning bright white with energy before jetting off. Very interesting.

8

u/-AMARYANA- avatar

-AMARYANA-

•

7y ago

wow. interesting. It's amazing how this is a global phenomenon that spans MILLENNIA. Skeptics are looking dumber and dumber as time goes on.

I know there is a lot of misinformation out here but after seeing orbs in California and New York in the last year, I can't be a skeptic anymore. Even if there were human beings operating the orbs I saw, the question still remains...how did they learn to build them?

21

[deleted]

•

7y ago

skeptics are looking dumber and dumber

You can't be serious

-3

1 more reply

Bleezy79

•

7y ago

Great post, would do good over at r/UFOs too

10

[deleted]

•

7y ago

Uhm... chinese lantern maybe? /s

9

[deleted]

•

7y ago

[deleted]

•

7y ago

Very, very cool.

6

blizzzybandito

•

7y ago

These kind of sightings have always convinced me of an ET presence/involvement more than modern day sightings

All over the ancient world stories and reports of things just like this. No such this as coincidence

3

Ovnit0

•

4y ago

Anhui is a premiere destination for these folks apparently. 11th century and 20th century visitations documented!

2

octopusboots

•

7y ago

I just couldn't really love this more. If I had gold I'd give it up.

2

u/Remseey2907 avatar

Remseey2907

•

7y ago

Zero point energy: one cup of empty space has the energy to boil all of Earth's oceans to nothing. That is probably what they harvest.

1

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most compelling evidence of alien life

Fascinating theories about ancient aliens

Impact of UFO sightings on society

Documentaries on extraterrestrial encounters

Unexplained phenomena linked to aliens

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

A UFO Was Shot Down in China Yesterday? Some Chinese media reported today that an unknown object was intercepted in Shandong Province. Images quickly spread across local video platforms.

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

4mo ago

A UFO Was Shot Down in China Yesterday? Some Chinese media reported today that an unknown object was intercepted in Shandong Province. Images quickly spread across local video platforms.

r/aliens - A UFO Was Shot Down in China Yesterday? Some Chinese media reported today that an unknown object was intercepted in Shandong Province. Images quickly spread across local video platforms.

com

837 upvotes · 72 comments

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

4mo ago

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/aliens - The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

1.8K upvotes · 140 comments

2010 Hangzhou, China UFO incident

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

9mo ago
2010 Hangzhou, China UFO incident
r/aliens - 2010 Hangzhou, China UFO incident
894 upvotes · 43 comments
Ufo Sighting From A Plane!
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

9mo ago
Ufo Sighting From A Plane!
r/aliens - Ufo Sighting From A Plane!
2.3K upvotes · 417 comments
Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

5mo ago
Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!
r/aliens - Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!
youtube
273 upvotes · 136 comments
3rd ufo i've seen this year, first time it's ever happened in broad daylight
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

7mo ago
3rd ufo i've seen this year, first time it's ever happened in broad daylight
r/aliens - 3rd ufo i've seen this year, first time it's ever happened in broad daylight
355 upvotes · 71 comments
A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

7mo ago
A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?
r/aliens - A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?
thehiddenarchive
354 upvotes · 149 comments
Ufo Sighting!
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

8mo ago
Ufo Sighting!
r/aliens - Ufo Sighting!
116 upvotes · 39 comments
UFO fleet! Another one! Apparently recorded on June 4th in China on a mobile phone! So we have a source! Shows a fleet of Egg Type UFOs moving across the sky! Wild! [Serious]
r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

7mo ago
UFO fleet! Another one! Apparently recorded on June 4th in China on a mobile phone! So we have a source! Shows a fleet of Egg Type UFOs moving across the sky! Wild! [Serious]
r/aliens - UFO fleet! Another one! Apparently recorded on June 4th in China on a

mobile phone! So we have a source! Shows a fleet of Egg Type UFOs moving across the sky! Wild! [Serious]
1.1K upvotes · 123 comments
Ancient photos of UFOs
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

10mo ago
Ancient photos of UFOs
r/alien - Ancient photos of UFOs
7
1.3K upvotes · 201 comments
Ukrainian servicemen see a UFO over the ocean
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

4mo ago
Ukrainian servicemen see a UFO over the ocean
r/alien - Ukrainian servicemen see a UFO over the ocean
5.9K upvotes · 218 comments
In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

20d ago
In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.
r/alien - In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.
80 upvotes · 12 comments
Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

4mo ago
Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?
259 upvotes · 105 comments
Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

6mo ago
Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?
125 upvotes · 124 comments
Saw this object in the Sky in Italy, UFO maybe?
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

3mo ago
Saw this object in the Sky in Italy, UFO maybe?
r/alien - Saw this object in the Sky in Italy, UFO maybe?
314 upvotes · 60 comments
After MANY hours, I finally finished my UFO painting!
r/alien icon
r/alien

•

9d ago
After MANY hours, I finally finished my UFO painting!
r/alien - After MANY hours, I finally finished my UFO painting!
4.3K upvotes · 167 comments
UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

20d ago

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r/aliens - UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims
co

517 upvotes · 168 comments

UFO Mothership tears to peices in orbit around Earth in 1955

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

3mo ago

UFO Mothership tears to peices in orbit around Earth in 1955

r/aliens - UFO Mothership tears to peices in orbit around Earth in 1955

242 upvotes · 70 comments

'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new
images come to light

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

1mo ago

'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new
images come to light

r/aliens - 'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO
mystery as new images come to light

livescience

151 upvotes · 12 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

196 upvotes · 16 comments

Shen Kuo was a renowned astronomer, mathematician, geologist, zoologist,
diplomat, engineer, inventor, musician, finance minister, and more. He lived
during the Song Dynasty in China (960-1127).

r/HighStrangeness icon

r/HighStrangeness

•

5y ago

Shen Kuo was a renowned astronomer, mathematician, geologist, zoologist,
diplomat, engineer, inventor, musician, finance minister, and more. He lived
during the Song Dynasty in China (960-1127).

96 upvotes · 3 comments

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

8mo ago

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/aliens - On The Origin of UFOs.

1K upvotes · 29 comments

When Astronomers See UFOs

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

6mo ago

When Astronomers See UFOs

26 upvotes · 9 comments

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

4mo ago

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

45 upvotes · 34 comments

UFO documentary collage

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

6mo ago

UFO documentary collage

r.aliens - UFO documentary collage

121 upvotes · 19 comments

View Post in

日本語

Tiếng Việt

简体中文

Português (Brasil)

Community Info Section

r.aliens

Join

Aliens

A community dedicated to discussing alien life through news, experiences, speculation and investigation. Please keep content related to extra-terrestrials or non-human intelligence behind the UAP phenomenon.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of July 29, 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of July 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2019

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

UFO sightings recorded by Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor in the 1600s. :

r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UFOs icon

Go to UFOs

r/UFOs

•

3y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

UFO sightings recorded by Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor in the 1600s.

John Winthrop, a lawyer and the 2nd, 6th, 9th, and 12th Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (12 of the colony's first 20 years), was the first to record UFO sightings in the Americas, although recorded UFO sightings predate

this by many centuries, such as 11th century China.

The journal of John Winthrop, 1630-1649. Notice the editors in 1996 included footnotes attempting to debunk this as swamp gas. Not a joke.

Google books: <https://books.google.com/books?id=6gD6e70kDcsC&pg=PA153&lpg=PA153&dq=%22ran+as+swift+as+an+arrow%22&source=bl&ots=rdb-kkgAgW&sig=ACfU3U0Qa7uvAinoQvQ6vDnDg66EuDdprQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj4i0n3k8D7AhV8MlkFHUyKBqgQ6AF6BAGZEAM#v=onepage&q=%22ran%20as%20swift%20as%20an%20arrow%22&f=false>

Page 153, multiple witness sighting of a luminous UFO:

In this year one James Everell [92], a sober discreet man, and two others saw a great light in the night at Muddy River. When it stood still, it flamed up and was about three yards square; when it ran, it was contracted into the figure of a swine: it ran as swift as an arrow towards Charlestown, and so up and down about two or three hours. They were come down in their lighter about a mile, and when it was over, they found themselves carried quite back against the tide to the place they came from. Divers other credible persons saw the same light [93] after, about the same place.

92: a shoemaker, admitted to the Boston Church in 1634

93: an ignis fatuus or phosphorescent light, possibly caused by the spontaneous combustion of gases from the muddy river swamps

Commentary: this is very reminiscent of alien abduction. Why would several men in a boat who watch a bizarre light fly around in the sky for hours find themselves upstream without deliberately paddling upstream? They described it as "the figure of a swine." This may have been saucer-shaped as viewed from an angle, or a tic-tac shaped luminous object with 4 landing gear. A modern version of this is a lost time incident in which a person witnesses a UFO and is dropped off some distance from where they last remember being without knowing how they got there.

The History of New England from 1630 to 1649, by John Winthrop.

https://books.google.com/books?id=zKM6AAAAACAAJ&pg=PA184&lpg=PA184&dq=%22About+midnight,+three+men,+coming+in+a+boat+to+Boston%22&source=bl&ots=ZfzAAitZlW&sig=ACfU3U3XEvxeEa_GWVYC Bp_FDPGS055YiQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi46Y7jLMD7AhX4KFkFHdwNCGgQ6AF6BAGZEAM#v=onepage&q=%22About%20midnight%2C%20three%20men%2C%20coming%20in%20a%20boat%20to%20Boston%22&f=false

Page 41:

It being court time, about 7 or 8 in the evening there appeared to the southward a great light, about 30 or 40 feet in length; it went very swift, and continued about a minute. It was observed by many in the bay and at Plimouth and New Haven, &c. and it seemed to all to be in the same position.

Page 184:

About midnight, three men, coming in a boat to Boston, saw two lights arise out of the water near the north point of the town cove, in form like a man, and went at a small distance to the town, and so to the south point, and there vanished away. They saw them about a quarter of an hour, being between the town and the governour's garden. The like was seen by many, a week after, arising about Castle Island and in one fifth of an hour came to John Galllop's point...

The 18th of this month two lights were seen near Boston, (as is before mentioned,) and a week after the like was seen again. A light like the moon

arose about the N. E. point in Boston, and met the former at Nottles Island, and there they closed in one, and then parted, and closed and parted divers times, and so went over the hill in the island and vanished. Sometimes they shot out flames and sometimes sparkles. This was about eight of the clock in the evening, and was seen by many. About the same time a voice was heard upon the water between Boston and Dorchester, calling out in a most dreadful manner, boy, boy, come away, come away: and it suddenly shifted from one place to another a great distance, about twenty times. It was heard by divers godly persons. About 14 days after, the same voice in the same dreadful manner was heard by others on the other side of the town toward Nottles Island.

78

.

11

Comments Section

Duodanglium

•

3y ago

These cases are my favorite.

Pre-1940's era and earlier really help to define how our technology didn't enter into the phenomenon yet.

33

Woahwoahwoah124

•

3y ago

Right? Imo taking in all the reports of UAP/UFOs as a group is a good way to find patterns of differences and commonalities in their description of what they saw.

This account is wild lol

Edit: Just read the 11th century China link. Crazy stuff.

11

Duodanglium

•

3y ago

I haven't read the China link yet.

A while back, someone posted a lot of accounts from Romans.

If any single one of these accounts are true, then we have our answer that it's not "modern human" technology.

7

u/Einar_47 avatar

Einar_47

•

3y ago

Didn't Columbus see an orange sphere come out of the ocean right beside his ship?

5

Rm-rf_forlife

•

3y ago

This is pretty cool. These sound more similar to orbs with some lost time and possibly telepathy mixed in.

I read some other accounts of mystery air ships in the 17-18 hundreds New

England.

13

livelongprospurr

•

3y ago

Jacques Vallee has a good book, "Passport to Magonia: From Folklore to Flying Saucers." He pretty much covers all of history before the present.

12

speakhyroglyphically

•

3y ago

Now we need someone to debunk it in old timey speak

7

u/Einar_47 avatar

Einar_47

•

3y ago

"Verily, thou didst see a lantern of the Orient or mayhaps the glow of a heavenly body seen through the noxious vapors of a miry bog."

~ Mick of the West, 1713

25

ImAWizardYo

•

3y ago

93: an ignis fatuus or phosphorescent light, possibly caused by the spontaneous combustion of gases from the muddy river swamps

Is this the first documented use of "swamp gas" to feebly explain the anomaly?

10

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

3y ago

That was the editors' commentary on the sighting they included in footnotes. The editors published in 1996. The book and these UFO sightings were published in the 1600s. J. Allen Hynek, when he was still peddling garbage explanations for the Air Force, promoted swamp gas as an explanation in the 1960s for some of the sightings in Michigan.

7

ImAWizardYo

•

3y ago

Ahh thanks for clarifying! That makes a lot more sense as it aligns with the current narrative they've been trying to paint.

2

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs - I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

9

865 upvotes · 127 comments

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs - UFO Sighting

5

206 upvotes · 49 comments

Just saw a UFO over my house in Northborough, MA

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Just saw a UFO over my house in Northborough, MA

r/UFOs - Just saw a UFO over my house in Northborough, MA

2K upvotes · 186 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

To all newcomers to this topic: UFOs and NHIs are real. Here is a list of the most credible cases - and a call to finally move past this part of the discussion. Please share your thoughts.

914 upvotes · 408 comments

FOX 5 New York reports that more than 60 UFO sightings have been documented in New York State so far this year, according to NUFORC, which has recorded over 6,100 sightings in the state since 1995.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

FOX 5 New York reports that more than 60 UFO sightings have been documented in New York State so far this year, according to NUFORC, which has recorded over 6,100 sightings in the state since 1995.

r/UFOs - FOX 5 New York reports that more than 60 UFO sightings have been documented in New York State so far this year, according to NUFORC, which has

recorded over 6,100 sightings in the state since 1995.

255 upvotes · 17 comments

NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

r/UFOs - NAVY document shows a US gov't panel in 1963 decided to increase stigma around UFOs after an investigation concluded it could cause ontological disruption. Calls for debunking through "mass media, advertising, business clubs, schools, and even the Disney Corporation". And surveillance of UFO groups.

472 upvotes · 52 comments

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

25d ago

Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?

128 upvotes · 179 comments

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs - UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

91 upvotes · 11 comments

Most famous UFO origin

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Most famous UFO origin

227 upvotes · 186 comments

1950's UFO

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

1950's UFO

r/UFOs - 1950's UFO

114 upvotes · 27 comments

I have written an article of the Mantell UFO Incident in what he was most likely pursuing.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

I have written an article of the Mantell UFO Incident in what he was most likely pursuing.

r/UFOs - I have written an article of the Mantell UFO Incident in what he was most likely pursuing.

medium

24 upvotes · 10 comments

Navy Officer says underwater ufos are a thing

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

4mo ago

Navy Officer says underwater ufos are a thing

r/UF0s - Navy Officer says underwater ufos are a thing

yahoo

2.5K upvotes · 251 comments

Police Detective Testifies On UFO Events Witnessed By Police Officers. Cases of UF0s the size of football fields flying silently and dematerializing.

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

20d ago

Police Detective Testifies On UFO Events Witnessed By Police Officers. Cases of UF0s the size of football fields flying silently and dematerializing.

r/UF0s - Police Detective Testifies On UFO Events Witnessed By Police Officers.

Cases of UF0s the size of football fields flying silently and dematerializing.

482 upvotes · 48 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UF0s to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UF0s to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UF0s - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UF0s to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

Multiple interesting, yet unrelated sources seem to support a UFO crash in Louisiana in 1942.

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

3mo ago

Multiple interesting, yet unrelated sources seem to support a UFO crash in Louisiana in 1942.

59 upvotes · 9 comments

UFO in northern Virginia

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

6mo ago

UFO in northern Virginia

38 upvotes · 18 comments

Pilot Calls in UFO to ATC over Rhode Island/Bonus Near Miss

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2mo ago

Pilot Calls in UFO to ATC over Rhode Island/Bonus Near Miss

173 upvotes · 28 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

What's the story behind Minnesota's 'UFO car'?

r/UF0s icon

r/UFOs

•

10mo ago

What's the story behind Minnesota's 'UFO car'?

r/UFOs - What's the story behind Minnesota's 'UFO car'?

startribune

104 upvotes · 34 comments

San Francisco Chronicle - The U.S. government is sitting on a trove of UFO records. It should release them

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

San Francisco Chronicle - The U.S. government is sitting on a trove of UFO records. It should release them

r/UFOs - San Francisco Chronicle - The U.S. government is sitting on a trove of UFO records. It should release them

sfchronicle

997 upvotes · 48 comments

Washington State police chief reported UFO discovery 75 years ago, described as about 6 inches thick and 20 inches in diameter

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Washington State police chief reported UFO discovery 75 years ago, described as about 6 inches thick and 20 inches in diameter

107 upvotes · 22 comments

Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

r/UFOs - Growing Momentum: Key Leaders in Washington Signal Serious Interest in UFOs/UAP Disclosure

529 upvotes · 88 comments

Part 3 - Direct links to historical UFO reports, 1840s - 1970s

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7mo ago

Part 3 - Direct links to historical UFO reports, 1840s - 1970s

33 upvotes · 6 comments

An update to my UFO map

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

An update to my UFO map

r/UFOs - An update to my UFO map

143 upvotes · 35 comments

View Post in

Français

Português (Brasil)

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of January 14, 2023

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of January 2023

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2023

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

Mick West on the Turkey UFO footage: "I think we need to be careful in fitting things to the image. If something looks a bit like a particular thing (like a camera lens, a ring, or a cruise ship) then it can be relatively easy to move things around until you get a roughly matching image." : r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UFOs icon

Go to UFOs

r/UFOs

•

3y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

Mick West on the Turkey UFO footage: "I think we need to be careful in fitting things to the image. If something looks a bit like a particular thing (like a camera lens, a ring, or a cruise ship) then it can be relatively easy to move things around until you get a roughly matching image."

Full quote because I couldn't fit it all in the title, from three of his comments:

"I think we need to be careful in fitting things to the image. If something looks a bit like a particular thing (like a camera lens, a ring, or a cruise ship) then it can be relatively easy to move things around until you get a roughly matching image. While it raises that thing as a possibility, it does not mean it is that thing.

"I think as I mentioned earlier, there's a danger in taking something that something vaguely resembles, and then moving things around until it fits. With this approach, we've got seemingly good fits for the same photo, with both a cruise ship and a camera lens"

"Remember when everyone was convinced it was a cruise ship, and then the inside of a teleconverter. And some people see little green men there. Beware of forcing your imagination onto the interpretation of an image."

-from page 2, 3, and 4 on the metabunk thread discussing the Turkey UFO Incident: <https://www.metabunk.org/threads/2008-ufo-footage-from-kumburgaz-turkey.9844/>

This post is basically a response to the top post on this sub that essentially argues "This thing looks like this other thing, coincidence?" This is my favorite thing Mick West has said. I'm a bit of a closet fan of his in many situations. We clearly disagree in others, but even he recognized the glaring problem here.

The reason he said it is because there had been like 13+ wildly different explanations for the Turkey footage, and he said this as they were piling up. Parts of the footage have been explained from that metabunk thread alone as a cruise ship, a small boat upside down on the beach, a part of a hotel, a ring with the stone missing (or armband), the inside of a camera lens, a reflection of someone standing in a lit driveway viewing it in a rectangular convex mirror, a reflection of an illuminated object behind a window, a pepper's ghost hoax, the top half on an image from a security camera monitor or a TV screen showing a feed from a wide angle camera, hoops resting on a cylindrical object - such as a wooden dowel, a copper or bronze bangle bracelet, a pocket watch, a silver spoon in front of the camera, a yacht in marina...

The people who took the videos could be the greatest trolls in history I suppose. It's certainly unconventional for UFO footage, so I really don't know what I'm looking at. What I do know is that the "resemblance to this thing, therefore too much of a coincidence" argument is completely flawed. It's so flawed, even Mick West has denounced it before.

The argument isn't flawed when the coincidence is actually unlikely, but it's super easy to simply not be aware that the coincidence you picked out is likely to be there anyway. As you can see above, if you can find 13+ different things to "match" some frames of a video, then it's easy to match it to something incorrectly because not all of them can be correct at the same time.

If the UFO shape is quite simple, such as what is depicted in the Rex Heflin photos, and you find something that looks very much like it, you cannot be confident whatsoever that you're actually correct. The Rex Heflin photos have not been "debunked" as a model train wheel, and it is not "too much of a coincidence" that somebody was able to find something that resembles it closely.

With the Turkey footage, people aren't actually saying that it looks like a cruise ship. They are saying that it looks like a very small portion of a cruise ship, or a small portion of a ring, camera lens, etc, so this is one level deeper than the resemblance argument. Not only do you have quadrillions of man made things you could choose for a comparison, now you have the option of breaking down those quadrillions of things into tiny parts and moving them any direction you want to get a theoretical "match." When that happens, you should not be saying that it's too much of a coincidence, therefore debunked. You should be saying that even if the video depicts a real UFO, you would probably still be able to locate numerous objects to "match" it, so the coincidence is normal and may have absolutely nothing to do with it. That doesn't sound too convincing as a debunk though, so I doubt debunkers are going to put this front and center in their argumentation, but it's something to keep in mind.

Here's where it gets even worse: Resemblance to man made objects is only one out of 18 different disqualifiers for UFO footage, many of them being coincidence arguments. Not only do you have the option of matching up the footage to either an entire or a portion of quadrillions of objects to discredit it, you have 17 other things you could chose from in order to find something else to discredit it. All you have to do is pick whichever ones apply to the case and you are guaranteed to be able to incorrectly discredit a genuine UFO video.
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/zilcgn/while_most_ufo_photos_and_videos_can_individually/

Turkey UFO Incident youtube channel for anyone interested:
<https://www.youtube.com/@TurkeyUFOIncident/videos>

.

71

Comments Section

fd40

•

3y ago

Check out chris lehtos analysis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAF0wa0aoPk>

3

5 more replies

u/rogerstan1 avatar

rogerstan1

•

3y ago

One should look at Chris Lehto's analysis first before calling this anything prozaic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJIYf62SdEw>

5

godianaa

•

3y ago

I've posted this before but here is a link to the written analysis. Reserve judgement after reading this.

<http://archivosovni2.blogspot.com/2012/04/graphic-analysis-on-videos-regarding.html?m=1>

17

u/Vayien avatar

Vayien

•

3y ago

thanks looks like a very interesting article to read

7

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

3y ago

And if you can do that then the image is effectively useless as evidence even if it is authentic. Extraordinary claims and all.

9

u/MantisAwakening avatar

MantisAwakening

•

3y ago

Not so fast—there may be other factors to take into consideration which make it considerably less ambiguous. People have a very bad habit of taking a single piece of evidence and using it to prove or discredit something (the “black swan” effect holds true only if it can be proven, and that’s often quite difficult).

8

Zer01neDevX

•

3y ago

https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/zi1cgn/while_most_ufo_photos_and_videos_can_individually/

This link is definitively interesting and will help people to Debunk Fake and Bullshit. Thanks for it !

2

u/Justice989 avatar
Justice989

•

3y ago

I think he should follow his own advice more.

6

HaxanWriter

•

3y ago

He does. You just don't like the result because it challenges your own ideas. Which, of course, is your prerogative.

12

u/Guses avatar
Guses

•

3y ago

What about Mick's conclusion that the Ariel event was a puppet show despite the lack of any actual evidence supporting it?

He cherry picked a few statements/drawings from the kids even though the vast majority (e.g., >95% of the drawings) of the kids' drawing/statements/descriptions clearly show/describe something that isn't puppets and are discarded because 8-12 year old children's description can't be trusted.

Mick should follow his own advice.

4

Truffle_Shuffle_85

•

3y ago

Questioning or challenging results is exactly what this field needs. However, Mick tends to throw the baby out with the bath water with his near 100% dismissal nature of ALL the data brought forward, or whatever he feels like he can comment on.

For example, I'd give Mick more credit if he'd simply say, that's interesting and we cannot say exactly what that is a little more often.

6

5 more replies

1 more reply

Paleontologist0k7493

•

3y ago

Seriously why do you see part of the cruise ship? If it was one those things you see allot of lights? Not to mention there huge! Why would a ship stay in one place because I read it was seen for 1-2 nights

5

theferrit32

•

3y ago

I'm not saying it definitely is a cruise ship, but filmed from a height of 5ft, a 15 mile away object would drop 100ft below the horizon due to Earth's curve. It's definitely a factor to consider.

8

u/Vayien avatar

Vayien

•

3y ago

I was just thinking along these lines actually, where say if there was a circular aspect or component that was primarily identifiable from limited visual acuity, then it is possible to find various objects that may appear to be similar. After which some of the apparent features of the compared images don't necessarily look one and the same (or even noticeably different if they are meant to be similar or even high identical)

although it seems to me at this level of discussion and analysis it can all be a bit moot, upvotes, or downvotes, don't soundly qualify anything, and can, as may be so in these reds, a rather exploitable factor in ostensibly persuading opinion

3

gregs1020

•

3y ago

until cruise ships can fly, it's not a cruise ship. the objects in these videos, aren't near the horizon.

i have never understood how people can think it was a cruise ship.

6

[deleted]

•

3y ago

Ken-Wing-Jitsu

•

3y ago

People are desperate to debunk that they make shit up.

This is perhaps the most solid undebunkable evidence of recent times.

5

[deleted]

•

3y ago

2 more replies

7 more replies

u/i_am_a_singularity avatar

i_am_a_singularity

•

3y ago

Where are the navigation lights? There are so many holes in this theory that I don't even know where to begin.

Any type of ship looks like a small city at night on the water. Add in their navigation lights, and a ship is identifiable 100% from a distance. They have to in order to be in compliance with maritime law.

Even if it's on anchor or in distress. There are a very specific arrangement of lights and shapes (daytime) that are mandatory to be visible on ANY marine vessel day or night.

No one can convince me that this is a cruise ship or any other type of marine vessel.

Also want to add one more thing from experience. 99% of the time the lights in a pilot house/bridge/wheel house, are off. That's because overhead cabin lights are blinding to whoever is piloting the ship. There were times when we did, but the majority of the time we were either on anchor or at the dock.

30

WeAreNotAlone1947

•

3y ago

you could move that frame around to fit on mount everest or a BMW car and debunkers will gladly accept it as irrefutable debunking proof.

3

u/yaoifeet avatar

yaoifeet

•

3y ago

not in this case, which is the partially the point of the post

2

imnotabot303

•

3y ago

The main point about footage or images like that is if you are able to match it to mundane possible explanations it's not evidence of anything. It's simply a video of just something and therefore pointless to debate over or be concerned with.

It's just like the videos of random spheres in the sky, yes it could be some AI powdered alien metapod or a balloon. Unless you can rule out the mundane it's useless as evidence for anything extraordinary.

1

Loquebantur

•

3y ago

Correlation does not equal causation.

-2

dopp3lganger

•

3y ago

They are saying that it looks like a very small portion of a cruise ship, or a small portion of a ring, camera lens, etc, so this is one level deeper than the resemblance argument.

Exactly, it's an asinine argument. The cruise ship angle was always DOA.

edit: the downvotes won't make it a cruise ship.

-4

gregs1020

•

3y ago

it's only asinine until cruise ships can fly. then, it's a possibility.

-3

not_SCR0TUS

•

3y ago

u/RopeOk1439 avatar

RopeOk1439

•

3y ago

Big post, 0 information.

Debunk the debunkers, prove him wrong through your own research and studies.

0

u/Slow-Attitude-9243 avatar

Slow-Attitude-9243

•

3y ago

From personal experience, I've only seen the (idk what they actually are) pilots work through a circular window on the bottom of a cloaked uap. It looked liked their "down" was perpendicular to normal up and down.

Fyi if you stare at the right spot without blinking or moving your eyes you can see faint details on some kinds of cloaked ships. It's very uncomfortable because your eyes start to dry out before you can see them.

-1

RWxEmployed

•

3y ago

HeyCarpy

•

3y ago

I'd like the "Batman Balloon" debunkers to take heed of this.

1

1 more reply

swank5000

•

3y ago

Unfortunately, I think it's just human nature to put "pieces of the puzzle" together, so to speak.

Our comprehension of the world around us is almost entirely based on the cataloging and "fitting" of matter and objects to descriptions of those things.

See an object making unremarkable flight movements, or traveling on a linear path in the sky? Must be a drone – as if ET could never fly in a straight line, or must always be moving at blistering speeds rather than cruising at a human-attainable speed.

Is the object in the distant sky orange? Chinese lantern. Must be.

"I've seen that before, and this looks like that, so this must be that."

This is just how our brains work, and imo it's definitely something we will need to keep trying to overcome if we ever want to truly understand the universe on a greater level.

1

u/AAAStarTrader avatar
AAAStarTrader

•

3y ago

It's clearly not a UAP. Just move on and stop wasting energy on this nonsense. So many good quality cases to investigate and discuss like the Varghina crash or Westall school, etc etc.

1

u/jt004c avatar
jt004c

•

3y ago

Based on what? I just watched all three years of videos including little details like zooming on moon, then immediately zooming on object below. The distance and height are clear. When the object is in focus and fully zoomed, you can even clearly see that it's illuminated by the moon. It's definitely UAP. Not a single proposed explanation accounts for what's in these videos.

3

Living-Staff-2412

•

3y ago

I saw this on video and photo

1

u/Tik00kiT avatar
Tik00kiT

•

2y ago

In April 2021, on the Facebook page of UFO-Pragmatism (a group claiming to be skeptical), I proposed a hypothesis concerning the Turkish Kumburgaz UFO. Because after verification, in the targeted town, Esenköy, therefore in the axis of the witness's objective, there is a mosque with a large white dome. Which in itself is a rather strange coincidence. But even better. This is because on one of the videos of this same witness, the semi-spherical object that he filmed in the distance presents a grid over its entire surface, as well as a shadow cast on the left (cf. diagram with video image capture). And what we see is that the dome of this mosque happens to be gridded in the same way. In addition, trees - which could therefore have created this shadow - are positioned in the axis of the mosque. Which makes for a lot of coincidences here in a row. Not to mention the main lights of this port city, which this time could correspond to the witness's video, showing several fixed light points filmed in the morning. Finally, depending on the position of the Moon, and if public lighting is turned off at night, the mosque hypothesis seems to be a solution with a rather high probability rate, concerning at least some of the videos of this witness...

.

FB link:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid036uZpgm5CzQkRWhFmP4g5R1EKuRCXw9M4FKvizLDuqY4KctrntJLYchZnaxVxjLCql&id=100013061269417

.

(for your information, the skeptics rejected my hypothesis, and Gilles Fernandez, administrator of the group and custodian of the "lens ring" hypothesis, did not wish to question "his" hypothesis)

. . .

The images concerning my hypothesis :

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1747449962367029&set=pcb.1744167896028569>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1747450022367023&set=pcb.1744167896028569>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1747449995700359&set=pcb.1744167896028569>

<https://i.goopics.net/v0jo7s.jpg>

.

An image regarding Mick West's "cruise ship" hypothesis :

[https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1744168759361816&set=p.1744168759361816&type=3)

[fbid=1744168759361816&set=p.1744168759361816&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1744168759361816&set=p.1744168759361816&type=3)

<https://i.goopics.net/7oy46u.jpg>

1

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

2y ago

As far as I have seen, skeptics generally do not eat their own when their hypotheses do not agree. They usually don't seem to care, so while you may have had a bad experience with that, let me just say that it's better than skeptics ignoring the elephant in the room, which is that they can't all be right.

Which makes for a lot of coincidences here in a row.

This doesn't mean much at all in this situation. One has to distinguish their coincidences, and the accumulation of them, from the fact that such coincidences are expected to be found if effort is put into locating them. The Flir1 video, for example, was coincidentally first uploaded to a CGI website, which is an astonishing coincidence considering the fact that the DoD admitted it was genuine over a decade later. In addition to that, it coincidentally resembled a previously-admitted hoax video, the admins alleged they had evidence the OP was using fake sock puppet accounts, and the story appeared to contain several discrepancies.

Since we don't have very many cases in which something was roundly debunked, but there later turned out to be proof of genuineness (the government doesn't often admit that a video is genuine, and back in 2007, this wasn't expected to occur in the near future), we have to take this as an example of the average case as far as we know. On average, you might expect multiple coincidences, even astonishing ones, discrepancies in the story, and potentially even shady behavior, or at least allegations of such. What you've presented as evidence that the Turkey UFO was a mosque is quite tame in comparison. The rest of the explanations themselves for the Turkey UFO rely on coincidences.

1

1 more reply

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs - Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

549 upvotes · 172 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

Jeremy Corbell and George Knapp have been informed by multiple sources that one of the largest UFO incursions happened a month ago in Texas..

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Jeremy Corbell and George Knapp have been informed by multiple sources that one of the largest UFO incursions happened a month ago in Texas..

r/UFOs - Jeremy Corbell and George Knapp have been informed by multiple sources that one of the largest UFO incursions happened a month ago in Texas..

1.1K upvotes · 260 comments

In 2003 and 2007, in Green Bay and Weyauwega, two remarkable UFOs were photographed with incredible clarity. Although separated by different years and locations, they show a striking resemblance, and to this day, the images have not been debunked.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

In 2003 and 2007, in Green Bay and Weyauwega, two remarkable UFOs were photographed with incredible clarity. Although separated by different years and locations, they show a striking resemblance, and to this day, the images have not been debunked.

r/UFOs - In 2003 and 2007, in Green Bay and Weyauwega, two remarkable UFOs were photographed with incredible clarity. Although separated by different years and locations, they show a striking resemblance, and to this day, the images have not been debunked.

com

172 upvotes · 58 comments

USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

21d ago

USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

r/UFOs - USA Today: Time to Get Real on UFOs. "People who interact with me are

already interested and they like that it's science, scholarship and research first. The subject is the thing we do. We're focused on the research for an enduring and rigorous understanding of the phenomena."

4

780 upvotes · 34 comments

UFO Whistleblower recounts his personal encounter with a large triangular UFO.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

UFO Whistleblower recounts his personal encounter with a large triangular UFO.

r/UFOs - UFO Whistleblower recounts his personal encounter with a large triangular UFO.

8K upvotes · 806 comments

Mysterious UFO Photo Solved

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

Mysterious UFO Photo Solved

r/UFOs - Mysterious UFO Photo Solved

3

6.6K upvotes · 559 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

220 upvotes · 218 comments

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

26d ago

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UFOs - That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

2.2K upvotes · 199 comments

Former nuclear security officer remembers how everything got quieter as a UFO flew above: "As it approached and came over us, it actually deadened sound wherever it moved... Almost like when you stick your head underwater... As soon as it was clear of us, that's when sound returned..."

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Former nuclear security officer remembers how everything got quieter as a UFO flew above: "As it approached and came over us, it actually deadened sound wherever it moved... Almost like when you stick your head underwater... As soon as it was clear of us, that's when sound returned..."

596 upvotes · 66 comments

Pilot Reports a "silver canister" UFO Just Flying By his Plane

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

11d ago

Pilot Reports a "silver canister" UFO Just Flying By his Plane

r/UFOs - Pilot Reports a "silver canister" UFO Just Flying By his Plane

1K upvotes · 52 comments

NY TIMES Reporter: Intelligence Sources have touched UFO craft and seen bodies

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

NY TIMES Reporter: Intelligence Sources have touched UFO craft and seen bodies
r/UFOs - NY TIMES Reporter: Intelligence Sources have touched UFO craft and seen bodies

1.5K upvotes · 127 comments

My first UFO sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

My first UFO sighting

r/UFOs - My first UFO sighting

718 upvotes · 56 comments

Some of the best UFO photos ever captured

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Some of the best UFO photos ever captured

315 upvotes · 63 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

UFO Video Southern Illinois

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

27d ago

UFO Video Southern Illinois

r/UFOs - UFO Video Southern Illinois

youtube

22 upvotes · 25 comments

Navy Officer says underwater ufos are a thing

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

Navy Officer says underwater ufos are a thing

r/UFOs - Navy Officer says underwater ufos are a thing

yahoo

2.5K upvotes · 251 comments

Police Detective Testifies On UFO Events Witnessed By Police Officers. Cases of UFOs the size of football fields flying silently and dematerializing.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

20d ago

Police Detective Testifies On UFO Events Witnessed By Police Officers. Cases of UFOs the size of football fields flying silently and dematerializing.

r/UFOs - Police Detective Testifies On UFO Events Witnessed By Police Officers. Cases of UFOs the size of football fields flying silently and dematerializing.

482 upvotes · 48 comments

The Hill UFOs potentially identified in 1950s images, study finds

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

27d ago

The Hill UFOs potentially identified in 1950s images, study finds
r/UFOs - The Hill UFOs potentially identified in 1950s images, study finds
thehill

92 upvotes · 7 comments

Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

r/UFOs - Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

reveil

164 upvotes · 95 comments

Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9mo ago

Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

r/UFOs - Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

888 upvotes · 61 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

Real UFOs?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

10mo ago

Real UFOs?

r/UFOs - Real UFOs?

330 upvotes · 74 comments

Weird UFO shape sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Weird UFO shape sighting

r/UFOs - Weird UFO shape sighting

300 upvotes · 32 comments

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

r/UFOs - UFO Sightings Compilation (No Music, Sources in Post)

91 upvotes · 11 comments

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of February 9, 2023
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of February 2023
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of 2023
Reddit Rules
Privacy Policy
User Agreement
Your Privacy Choices
Accessibility
Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to Main Content
Toggle menu

Exclusive

Ex-official who revealed UFO project accuses Pentagon of 'disinformation' campaign

Lue Elizondo's inspector general complaint asserts that officials have tried to discredit him since he went public.

The Pentagon in Washington.

A day after Lue Elizondo filed his complaint, the agency's inspector general announced a probe into Pentagon "actions" on UFOs. | Charles Dharapak, File/AP

By Bryan Bender

05/26/2021 08:15 PM EDT

Updated: 05/26/2021 10:27 PM EDT

The former Pentagon official who went public about reports of UFOs has filed a complaint with the agency's inspector general claiming a coordinated campaign to discredit him for speaking out — including accusing a top official of threatening to tell people he was "crazy," according to documents reviewed by POLITICO.

Lue Elizondo, a career counterintelligence specialist who was assigned in 2008 to work for a Pentagon program that investigated reports of "unmanned aerial phenomena," filed the 64-page complaint to the independent watchdog on May 3 and has met several times with investigators, according to his legal team.

The claim that the government is trying to discredit him comes weeks before the director of national intelligence and the Pentagon are expected to deliver an unclassified report to Congress about UFOs and the government's strategy for investigating such encounters. The report is expected to include a detailed accounting of the agencies, personnel and surveillance systems that gather and analyze the data.

"What he is saying is there are certain individuals in the Defense Department who in fact were attacking him and lying about him publicly, using the color of authority of their offices to disparage him and discredit him and were interfering in his ability to seek and obtain gainful employment out in the world," said Daniel Sheehan, Elizondo's attorney. "And also threatening his security clearance."

Sheehan, a public interest lawyer and activist, has a long history of taking on the federal government on behalf of high-profile clients, including defending The New York Times in the Pentagon Papers case as well as one of the Watergate burglars.

He is also widely viewed as a provocateur who has an abiding interest in UFOs and has spoken publicly about alien visitations. He also served as counsel for the Disclosure Project, led by ufologist Steven Greer, that has sought to force more government transparency on UFOs.

When asked for comment, Elizondo referred questions to Sheehan.

Sheehan maintains the goal of Elizondo's IG complaint is much bigger than clearing his name: He wants to compel the Pentagon to clear up all the ambiguity about what it knows about UFOs.

"Nobody seemed to be taking this thing seriously," Sheehan said of Elizondo's concerns when he left the Pentagon in 2017. "The different units and different groups that are responsible for responding to this particular phenomenon ... they're not briefing each other on this."

"The old dodge," Sheehan says, "is 'oh well, the real problem was that one shop wasn't communicating with the other shop.' That's the classic bureaucratic dodge. I'm trying to get the Defense Department to clarify for the public and media what exactly is the cartography inside the Defense Department for dealing with this particular phenomenon."

A spokesperson for the Defense Department IG's office declined to comment on the status of Elizondo's complaint. "I cannot speculate or deliberate about complaints that our office may have received," said Dwrena Allen. "I certainly cannot confirm or deny the existence of an investigation to the same."

But a day after Elizondo filed his complaint, the IG announced a probe into Pentagon "actions" on UFOs, which is being undertaken by the assistant inspector general for evaluations on space, intelligence, engineering and oversight.

"We may revise the objective as the evaluation proceeds, and we will consider suggestions from management for additional or revised objectives," stated the IG's memo announcing that probe.

It remains unclear whether Elizondo's claims will be found to merit an official investigation, but his legal team says he is scheduled to meet again with investigators from the IG next month.

Elizondo has become a minor celebrity since he retired from the Pentagon in October 2017 and went public about the Advanced Aerial Threat Identification Program, or AATIP, a secret Pentagon effort that was initiated in 2008 by then-Sen. Harry Reid. POLITICO and The New York Times revealed the existence of the office and Elizondo's role in it in December 2017.

Elizondo complained at the time that his Pentagon bosses were failing to take seriously numerous intrusions into military airspace by high-performance aircraft of unknown origin.

"It was during this time I grew increasingly frustrated by the lack of resources and interest by senior leadership," he states in the IG complaint. "UAP reporting to our office was increasing, yet our resources were minimal, and leadership involvement was almost non-existent."

"After increased frustration, " he added, "I became alarmed by the frequency and duration of UAP activity in and around controlled U.S. airspace. The instances seemed more provocative, and during one instance, they came within feet of a U.S. fighter aircraft."

After he retired from government service, Elizondo also shared with the media a trio of Navy videos he got declassified before he left government service.

He claims he has since endured a coordinated effort to malign his reputation, including Pentagon press statements asserting he had no official role in UFO research, even after his role was officially confirmed. He also alleges a personal vendetta from a Pentagon rival he claims has sought repeatedly to damage his career, including trying to have him investigated for releasing the video after he had been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Watch: The Conversation

SharePlay Video20:23

The top 5 interview moments of 2025 | The Conversation

Elizondo charges "malicious activities, coordinated disinformation, professional misconduct, whistleblower reprisal and explicit threats perpetrated by certain senior-level Pentagon officials," according to the complaint, which includes dozens of supporting documents.

POLITICO is declining to publish the names of the Pentagon officials who are cited in the IG complaint because it is unclear whether they are being investigated.

But Elizondo told the IG he has evidence, in the form of emails, documents and the public record, "which suggests a coordinated effort to obfuscate the truth from the American people while impugning my reputation as a former intelligence officer at the Pentagon."

"These negative actions against me have resulted in great personal and professional challenges to me and my family," he adds in the complaint.

In recounting one episode in the days after he left government service, Elizondo claims a senior official warned him that he would "tell people you are crazy, and it might impact your security clearance."

"I responded ... by telling him that he can take any action he thinks is prudently necessary, but that I was not mentally impaired, nor have I ever violated my security oath," Elizondo wrote in the complaint, saying he did not meet with the official again "after our discussion as I feared he would take retribution against me."

The IG complaint also charges that the Pentagon's press operation has engaged in a disinformation campaign to discredit him by suggesting he was lying about his UFO work.

He cites several public statements asserting the department had no record of his involvement in UFOs even after saying that he did work for AATIP.

"Several internet bloggers were notified ... that I had no duties regarding AATIP and that AATIP did not involve the study of UAPs," Elizondo told the IG. "As a result, the bloggers began to disseminate reporting, accusing me of being a fabricator."

He said when he inquired why the Pentagon had changed its official story about AATIP, he claims one individual directly involved told him he "was not happy with the way this was being handled internally with the Department." The official also said he "was aware I ran AATIP, but forces within the building were telling him not to admit it," according to Elizondo.

The Pentagon public affairs office declined to comment for this story.

The Defense Department this month publicly acknowledged in a statement that the AATIP program was involved in UFO research, but it has not corrected the record on Elizondo's involvement, he says.

"It goes beyond simple ambiguity," Sheehan said. "There [are] actual discordant narratives that are going on. They're professing a substantial amount of confusion."

Elizondo maintains that the efforts to punish him for coming forward continue. The IG complaint outlines that his release of the three unclassified UFO videos was investigated by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and "there were no findings of me conducting any kind of Unauthorized Disclosure."

But he says he was contacted this April by the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency advising him to submit to a new interview to maintain his clearance even though it was renewed in January 2021. And he maintains he was told it was about concerns over whether he violated the rules when he made the UFO videos public.

"Despite a previous favorable AFOSI investigation, I am under accusation of releasing the videos in an unauthorized manner," he wrote in the IG complaint.

Elizondo has continued to publicly maintain that he believes the government is covering up what it knows about UFO sightings. And Sheehan also claims Elizondo's experience within the Pentagon's bureaucracy signifies a much deeper resistance to coming clean.

He said there is "this extraordinarily bizarre process going on in the heart of the national security state bureaucracy where general officers, secretaries of defense are not being briefed in on something that is transparently within their jurisdiction."

"That is a profound and fundamental problem that they view as being above their pay grade," Sheehan added. "They know something is going on, and they don't dare go there."

Filed Under:

Harry Reid
Department Of Defense
Pentagon
The New York Times
UFOs
National Security Daily

From the SitRoom to the E-Ring, the inside scoop on defense, national security and foreign policy.

Logo for POLITICO's National Security Daily newsletter

Email

Your Email

Employer

Employer

By signing up, you acknowledge and agree to our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. You may unsubscribe at any time by following the directions at the bottom of the email or by contacting us here. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply.

Sign Up

* All fields must be completed to subscribe

About Us

Advertising

Breaking News Alerts

Careers

Credit Card Payments

Digital Edition

FAQ

Feedback

Headlines

Photos

Press

Request A Correction

Write For Us

RSS

Site Map

Terms of Service

Privacy Policy

© 2025 POLITICO LLC

15 ads blocked

17% space saved!BBC Homepage

Skip to content

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Sign in](#)

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Sport](#)

[Business](#)

[Innovation](#)

[Culture](#)

[Travel](#)

[More menu](#)

[Search BBC](#)

[BBC News](#)

[Home](#)

[Israel-Gaza war](#)

[War in Ukraine](#)

[Climate](#)

[Video](#)

[World](#)

[US & Canada](#)

[UK](#)

[Business](#)

[Tech](#)

[More](#)

[US & Canada](#)

Edgar Mitchell, sixth man on the Moon, dies aged 85

Published

6 February 2016

[Share](#)

[Apollo 14 crew photo](#)

[Image source, NASA](#)

[Image caption,](#)

The Apollo 14 crew: Edgar Mitchell (left) with Alan Shepard (centre) and Stuart Roosa

US astronaut Edgar Mitchell, who was the sixth man to walk on the Moon, has died aged 85.

Captain Mitchell passed away at a hospice in West Palm Beach, Florida, one day before the 45th anniversary of his Moon landing, his family said.

As part of the Apollo 14 mission in 1971, he spent more than nine hours on the Moon conducting experiments.

He said he had undergone an epiphany in space and in later life revealed a belief that aliens had visited Earth.

Mr Mitchell's mission to the Moon was the fourth in the US Apollo series, and the first to follow the ill-fated Apollo 13 which aborted its attempt to land after an oxygen tank explosion.

Mr Mitchell and his crewmate, another Navy officer, Captain Alan Shepard, made it safely to the lunar surface. Their landing site was the Fra Mauro Highlands, a hilly area that was the target of the failed Apollo 13 mission.

During their 33 hours at the site, the two astronauts collected 45kg (94lb) of Moonrock for examination back on earth and completed the longest moonwalk in history.

Capt Shepard also hit a golf ball he had stowed onboard for the purpose, reporting later that it travelled "miles and miles and miles" in the low lunar gravity. He later estimated it travelled up to 400 yards (365 metres) - still considerably further than his average Earthbound drive.

US astronaut Edgar Mitchell on the Moon, 5 February 1971
Image source, Reuters
Image caption,
Edgar Mitchell on the Moon, 5 February 1971

Mr Mitchell brought home more than just rocks from the Moon, telling reporters in the days after the mission that he said he had experienced an "epiphany" in space and returned with "an overwhelming sense of oneness, of connectedness".

Years later he wrote in his autobiography: "It occurred to me that the molecules of my body and the molecules of the spacecraft itself were manufactured long ago in the furnace of one of the ancient stars that burned in the heavens about me."

Mr Mitchell left Nasa in 1972 and set up the Institute of Noetic Sciences, which aimed to support "individual and collective transformation through consciousness research".

In 1974, he described his lunar epiphany to the New York Times: "It was a sense of the Earth being in critical condition, a recognition of the massive insanity which had led man into deeper and deeper crises on the planet.

"Above all, I felt the need for a radical change in our culture. I knew we were replete with untapped intuitive and psychic forces which we must utilise if we were to survive, forces that Western society had programmed us to disregard."

Aliens and UFOs

Mr Mitchell devoted much of his later life to studying the mind and unexplained phenomena. In 2008, he claimed that aliens had visited Earth and said he believed there was a government cover-up.

"I happen to have been privileged enough to be in on the fact that we've been visited on this planet and the UFO phenomena is real," he said in an interview with Kerrang Radio.

"It's been well covered up by all our governments for the last 60 years or so, but slowly it's leaked out and some of us have been privileged to have been briefed on some of it."

Asked about the astronaut's unorthodox opinions, Nasa said diplomatically: "Dr Mitchell is a great American, but we do not share his opinions on this issue."

Unlike his post-Nasa life, Mr Mitchell took a very traditional route to becoming an astronaut. He flew fighter jets for the Navy before becoming a test pilot - a profession from which many of the early Apollo crews were drawn.

He joined the astronaut corps in April 1966, five years before he went into space. Apollo 14 was his only spaceflight.

Of the 12 men who have set foot on the Moon, seven are still alive following Mr Mitchell's death, including Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong's crewmate on the first mission in 1969.

More on this story

Moon shot pioneer 'too old at 47'

Published

4 February 2011

Shepard

Top stories

Idris Elba knighted as Sarina Wiegman and Lionesses lead New Year Honours

Published

5 hours ago

Torvill & Dean and Wiegman recognised in New Year Honours

Published

25 minutes ago

Anthony Joshua injured in Nigeria car crash that killed two team members

Published

1 hour ago

More to explore

Do saunas really boost your health?

Couple lying on levels in a wooden sauna

Music in 2026: Who's releasing new albums and will Oasis play Knebworth?

Lily looking at the camera over her shoulder in a black coat standing in front of a green background

Cynthia Erivo's journey from nativity play solo to MBE

Cynthia Erivo smiling at a Wicked: For Good event, she is wearing several diamond earrings and a diamond nose ring. Her head is shaved.

How does the UK honours system work?

The actor Stephen Fry kneels as King Charles places a sword on his left shoulder during his investiture at Windsor Castle on 25 March 2025.

Photographing the hidden world of slime mould

A close up image of some slime mould. The sporangium have red and white heads, and there are water droplets stuck to them.

Why did Edinburgh become the home of Hogmanay?

A black and white photo of people singing Auld Lang's Syne during New Year at the Tron, Edinburgh 1964.

Fergal Keane: I've seen firsthand how growing up in war really affects a child

An image in black and white of young children sitting on the ground and looking up, one of them has a beard and moustache drawn on his face in pen

Anthony Joshua in 'horror crash' and honours for 'pride of England'

Newspaper headlines: 'Boxer in horror crash' and 'Pride of England'

News Daily: Our flagship daily newsletter delivered to your inbox first thing

A promo promoting the News Daily newsletter - a graphic of an orange sphere with two concentric crescent shapes around it in a red-orange gradient, like a sound wave.

Elsewhere on the BBC

Cunk explores the traditions and trappings of Christmas

Cunk on Christmas

The forgotten story behind the rise of Monopoly

Witness History

The Mitford sisters refuse to play by the rules

Outrageous

Can England's greatest knight still save the realm at 70?

History's Toughest Heroes with Ray Winstone

Most read

1

Idris Elba knighted as Sarina Wiegman and Lionesses lead New Year Honours

2

Russia's losses in Ukraine rise faster than ever as US pushes for peace deal

3

Anthony Joshua injured in Nigeria car crash that killed two team members

4

Cabinet Office withdraws Andrew papers after 'error'

5

Anthony Joshua in 'horror crash' and honours for 'pride of England'

6

Do saunas really boost your health?

7

Bereaved mum who is campaigning for law change appointed MBE

8

Music in 2026: Who's releasing new albums and will Oasis play Knebworth?

9

Government to review 'information failures' in British-Egyptian activist case

10

Fergal Keane: I've seen firsthand how growing up in war really affects a child

BBC News Services
On your mobile
On smart speakers
Get news alerts
Contact BBC News

Home

News

Sport

Business

Innovation

Culture

Travel

Earth

Audio

Video

Live

Terms of Use

About the BBC

Privacy Policy

Cookies

Accessibility Help

Parental Guidance

Contact the BBC

BBC emails for you

Advertise with us

Do not share or sell my info

Copyright © 2025 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. Read about our approach to external linking.

13 ads blocked

36% space saved!Facebook

X (Twitter)

Instagram

YouTube

TikTok

Discord

The Black Vault

E-Newsletter

Contact

Home

FOIA Documents

Paranormal Case Files

Chat

Podcast

Shop

Donate

The Pentagon Corrects Record on "Secret UFO Program"

By John Greenwald, Jr. – The Black Vault – Originally Published December 6, 2019

The Pentagon has recently opened up to The Black Vault about the rumored "secret UFO Program," known as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program or AATIP.

On December 16, 2017, news of this obscure program was first announced by the NY Times and Politico. Both media outlets reported that UFOs- now being referred to as "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena" or UAPs to reduce the stigma surrounding the topic – were the direct focus of this program. However, the Pentagon now seems to have changed their stance.

Claiming they want to correct the record and clear up some inaccuracies, the Pentagon now says AATIP was not a UFO or UAP program.

Original bid solicitation notice posted for the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program.

"Neither AATIP nor AAWSAP were UAP related," said Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough in an e-mail to The Black Vault. "The purpose of AATIP was to investigate foreign advanced aerospace weapons system applications with future technology projections over the next 40 years, and to create a center of expertise on advanced aerospace technologies."

Since 2017, details have been scarce. However, the DoD's latest position that AATIP wasn't a UFO program, seems to represent one of their most dramatic about-faces on the issue since the program was first revealed.

The "AAWSAP" Gough refers to is the Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program; a contract posted publicly by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) asking for bids from the private sector on August 18, 2008. By the due date of September 5, only one bidder had submitted a proposal, and that was Bigelow Aerospace's subsidiary known as Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies or BAASS. They were awarded the contract, and according to the NY Times, operated with a \$22 million budget. (Note: The Black Vault has not been able to independently verify that budget amount.)

Many researchers, bloggers and journalists within the mainstream media have often confused AATIP and AAWSAP along with the missions of both programs. For example, an anonymous letter by someone claiming to be involved in the project was published by KLAS-TV, and it alleged AAWSAP was studying poltergeists along with other paranormal activity. Another example is a blogger attempting to create a cohesive timeline of the programs, but often confuses dates, facts and figures that have already been established and documented. According to the latest from The Pentagon, none of that is the case as, "[AATIP] was the name of the overall program. [AAWSAP] was the name of the contract that DIA awarded for the production of technical reports under AATIP."

The titles of those "technical reports" referenced by the Pentagon were released via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to The Black Vault on January 16, 2019; which consisted of a list of thirty-eight documents created under the AATIP program. Mysteriously absent from the topics covered by the Defense Intelligence Reference Documents (DIRDs) was anything directly referencing UFOs or UAPs.

Cover page of Defense Intelligence Reference Document (DIRD) report entitled, "Warp Drive, Dark Energy, and the Manipulation of Extra Dimensions. Topics did include some wildly speculative science, ranging from warp drives to invisibility cloaking. However, there was nothing about unidentified objects flying in the sky or captured on video. Some researchers have theorized this list of research topics was simply an exploration on how UFOs may work or how an alien civilization might traverse the cosmos in order to visit Earth. Conversely, some have remained skeptical, and felt this list may be proof that AATIP (and/or AAWSAP) had nothing to do with UFOs, and only focused on pseudoscience.

The skeptics appeared to be proven wrong, when on May 22, 2019, the NY Post ran the headline, "The Pentagon finally admits it investigates UFOs." At the time this article was published, investigative journalist Steven Greenstreet with the NY Post had received word from the Pentagon through spokesperson Christopher Sherwood that AATIP, "...did pursue research and investigation into unidentified aerial phenomena."

Understandably, the story then went viral.

However, roughly seven months later, the Pentagon's stance seems to have changed. Although the statement that was given to the NY Post was accurately

reported; the Pentagon now states it was not entirely fact-based.

When asked about the discrepancy, "At the time, Mr. Sherwood was repeating the information that had been provided by a previous spokesperson some two years earlier," said Gough. "That previous spokesperson is no longer with my organization, and I cannot comment on why that person's explanation of AATIP included that it had looked at anomalous events. According to all the official information I have now, when implemented, AATIP did not pursue research and investigation into unidentified aerial phenomena; that was not part of the technical studies nor the reports produced by the program."

The Black Vault reached out to Greenstreet and the New York Post but they did not respond for comment.

Luis Elizondo, Director of Government Programs and Services, To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science.

The Pentagon's new stance conflicts with former Department of Defense (DOD) employee, Luis Elizondo. According to Elizondo he was the director of AATIP, and since coming forward in October of 2017, he's consistently maintained AATIP did research UFOs / UAPs. "AATIP itself spent its entire time on UFOs," said Elizondo in March of 2019 at the first annual Anomalous Aerospace Phenomena (AAP) conference put on by the Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies (SCU). "AATIP was a 100% UFO program, period. It was not looking at airplanes."

In an already confusing saga, the Pentagon continues to deny Elizondo's role and participation in the AATIP. According to Gough, Elizondo was, "not the director of the AATIP," and reiterated he had "no assigned responsibilities" within the program.

Currently, Elizondo serves as the Director of Government Programs and Services for To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science (TTSA), a "public benefit" corporation led by rock star Tom DeLonge, and stars in a History channel series called Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation.

In the past, Elizondo has addressed the hierarchy of the AATIP and AAWSAP programs. "It would be disingenuous for me to simply say, well, AATIP is really AAWSAP. Well, it evolved from AAWSAP but it is not AAWSAP," Elizondo said during an annual Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) conference in July of 2018. "And I think the documentation that is beginning to come out into the public forum, people are beginning to realize that," Elizondo told the crowd of UFO enthusiasts.

Elizondo did not return a request for comment from The Black Vault.

Although the Pentagon's change to a previous statement may concern and frustrate a segment of the general public excited about recent UFO developments; hope is not entirely lost. The Pentagon maintains, as of the writing of this article, that the U.S. Navy continues to investigate UAPs, and the three videos that have surfaced in the past two years that have garnered worldwide attention, are still considered UAPs. So the Pentagon hasn't tried to change or close the door on the whole UFO topic, something should still encourage enthusiasts of the UFO subject.

Follow The Black Vault on Social Media:
Search The Black Vault

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Advertisement
Shop

Inside The Black Vault - Paperback Edition - Book Only (Autographed) Inside The Black Vault - Paperback Edition - Book Only (Autographed)
\$19.99 - \$22.99 Price range: \$19.99 through \$22.99
Help Make This Site Possible

Can you help support The Black Vault?

Become a Patron!

Or, a One Time Donation option is also available:

Donate with PayPal button

FOIA Document Categories

Government

Congressional & Senatorial Correspondence

Controversies

Elections

Government Accountability & I.G. Reports

Government Employee Manuals / Orientation

Politician Public Financial Disclosure Statements

TV Show Complaints

U.S. Financial Information

History

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Collection

Department of Defense Collection

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Collection

J.F.K. Era

National Security Agency (NSA) Collection

Office of Technology Assessment Collection

Richard Helms Collection

Intelligence

Cryptology

FBI Files / Domestic & Foreign Intelligence

Field Manuals

Freedom of Information Act / Research Tools

Spy Satellites and the NRO

Military / Defense

Advanced "For Its Time" Technology

Aircraft / Air Force History

Bombers

Cargo

E"X"perimental

Fighters

Foreign

Reconnaissance

Spy Planes

Stealth

Unconfirmed

Biological / Chemical Weapons

Defense Issues

Military and Commercial Accidents

Nuclear Weapons

Psychological Operations

Terrorism

Assassination Attempts

September 11th, 2001

Weapons

Mysteries

Mind Control

New World Order

Parapsychology

Remote Viewing

UFO Phenomena

Science

Cloning

Disease and Human Health

Environmental Issues

Space

Weather / Weather Modification

Wartime

Afghanistan War
Cold War Era
Iraq Wars
Vietnam Era
World War I
World War II
The Black Vault Radio
bvr
VIEW RECENT EPISODES
Advertisement
Facebook
X (Twitter)
YouTube
Instagram
TikTok
Discord
Home
Document Archive
Case File Database
FOIA Documents
FBI Files
Government
Congressional & Senatorial Correspondence
Controversies
Elections
Government Accountability & I.G. Reports
Government Employee Manuals / Orientation
Politician Public Financial Disclosure Statements
TV Show Complaints
U.S. Financial Information
History
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Collection
Department of Defense Collection
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Collection
J.F.K. Era
National Security Agency (NSA) Collection
Office of Technology Assessment Collection
Richard Helms Collection
Intelligence
Cryptology
FBI Files / Domestic & Foreign Intelligence
Field Manuals
Freedom of Information Act / Research Tools
Spy Satellites and the NRO
Military / Defense
Advanced "For Its Time" Technology
Aircraft / Air Force History
Bombers
Cargo
E"X"perimental
Fighters
Foreign
Reconnaissance
Spy Planes
Stealth
Biological / Chemical Weapons
Defense Issues
Military and Commercial Accidents
Nuclear Weapons
Psychological Operations
Terrorism
Assassination Attempts
September 11th, 2001
Weapons

Mysteries
Mind Control
New World Order
Parapsychology
Remote Viewing
UFO Phenomena
Science
Cloning
Disease and Human Health
Environmental Issues
Space
Weather / Weather Modification
Wartime
World War I
World War II
Vietnam Era
Cold War Era
Iraq Wars
Afghanistan War
Paranormal Case Files
Chat
Facebook Group
Discord Server
Podcast
Shop
Books
T-Shirts
Account details
Donate
© 2025 The Black Vault, Inc.
Facebook
X (Twitter)
Instagram
YouTube
TikTok
Discord
The Black Vault
E-Newsletter
Contact

Home
FOIA Documents
Paranormal Case Files
Chat
Podcast
Shop
Donate

Pentagon Reinforces Mr. Luis Elizondo Had “No Responsibilities” on AATIP;
Senator Harry Reid’s 2009 Memo Changes Nothing
By John Greenewald, Jr., The Black Vault – Published June 14, 2019

Nearly two weeks ago, The Intercept published a Pentagon denial about the involvement of Mr. Luis Elizondo, and his wide-spread claims about heading a “secret Pentagon UFO program” known as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program or AATIP. Now, newly received statements from the Pentagon issued to The Black Vault specifically address a 2009 Harry Reid memo that is being offered by some supporters as proof of Mr. Elizondo’s alleged leadership of the program. Yet, it is now revealed that the existence of this document does not alter the Pentagon’s original position about his claims.

Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough stated, “I can confirm that the memo you’re referring to is authentic... It makes no change to previous statements. Mr. Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP while he was in OUSD(I) [the

Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence]."

Her statement comes amid a firestorm of controversy, when on June 1, 2019, as reported by Mr. Keith Kloor, the Pentagon had also said, in part, "Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI, up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017."

One page from the 2009 Harry Reid memo, showing Mr. Luis Elizondo and Dr. Hal Puthoff were redacted by KLAS-TV on the initial release, for unknown reasons. The week following this controversial article by The Intercept, Mr. George Knapp, journalist from KLAS-TV in Las Vegas, Nevada, re-issued a new version of a previously leaked memorandum written by Senator Harry Reid. The document, dated July 24, 2009, previously had the names of Mr. Elizondo, along with another name well-established to have worked within the program, Dr. Hal Puthoff, redacted. The memo outlined Senator Reid's request and reasoning to get the AATIP a "Special Access Program" or SAP status, and was written to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, William Lynn III. That letter was first published in the July 25, 2018, KLAS-TV story written by Mr. Knapp and Mr. Matt Adams, but it remains unclear why both journalists, or their source, asked them to redact those two names in the first place.

However, there are problems with the letter. Not only does the date precede Mr. Elizondo's claim by at least five months of heading the AATIP (thus not disproving the Pentagon's original statement) the Pentagon now confirms that although the letter is genuine; the content therein "makes no change" to their previous statement issued by Pentagon spokesperson Mr. Christopher Sherwood to The Intercept.

"I can confirm that the memo you're referring to is authentic. DOD received it and responded to Sen. Reid," Ms. Gough said. She then explains that her office is unable to provide The Black Vault a full copy of the response, since the Public Affairs office does not release Congressional correspondence, but she adds, "It makes no change to previous statements. Mr. Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP while he was in OUSDI. DIA [Defense Intelligence Agency] administered AATIP, and Elizondo was never assigned to DIA. Elizondo did interact with the DIA office managing the program while the program was still ongoing, but he did not lead it."

Mr. Elizondo did not respond to a request for comment.

This statement, received on June 13, 2019, goes against many claims written online that a "new Pentagon statement" would be forthcoming that would further clarify the Pentagon's stance, and confirm Mr. Elizondo's directorship of the program. Most notably, on June 2, 2019, Mr. Bryan Bender, defense editor for Politico who authored one of the main articles breaking the AATIP story in December 2017, tweeted, "I'd stay tuned for a much more definitive statement from the Pentagon this week. The Intercept's assertions and innuendo (it never definitively reported anything) were wrong. And the issue should be settled once and for all. Though with this crowd I won't count on it."

Original tweet by Mr. Bryan Bender, defense editor, Politico.

Mr. Bender has since deleted this tweet, some time after it was pointed out the Pentagon statement was not issued the week that he claimed.

Mr. Bender declined to comment on why he deleted the tweet.

Although no correction has been made by the Pentagon as hoped for by some, Dr. Puthoff, co-founder of To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science where Mr. Elizondo is now employed, offered his support to counter the Pentagon's assertions. When asked for documented proof or any evidence to the contrary, Dr. Puthoff only issued the following statement to The Black Vault:

Dr. Hal Puthoff. Photo Credit: To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science
"I have been following all the buzz back 'n forth concerning Elizondo's role in AATIP, and recognize that there are a number of misunderstandings - for reasonable reasons - given that the public doesn't have detailed access to daily activities in Pentagon projects/offices. Unfortunately for the public, those not directly connected, e.g., in the Public Affairs Office, are often themselves sketchy about details concerning highly-classified sensitive programs for which they have little-to-no access for security reasons. However, I have no problem asserting that as an AAWSAP [Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Applications Program]/AATIP Contractor & Senior Advisor I continued to attend meetings, provide briefings, gain access to videos, provide Proposed Program Plans, meet with staff, etc., all under the aegis of Elizondo's leadership and responsibility for maintaining continuity of the Program effort and goals until he resigned."

It is unclear how Dr. Puthoff could have worked under Mr. Elizondo's leadership, since AAWSAP/AATIP contracted work began in 2008 at DIA and Mr. Elizondo's alleged leadership began in 2010 at OUSDI when the program was transferred. When asked about the discrepancy, or to clarify that the contracted work by Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, LLC. who initially won the contract, continued after two years (or after the 2012 date when funding was cut entirely); Dr. Puthoff did not return the message.

Follow The Black Vault on Social Media:
Search The Black Vault

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Advertisement
Shop

Inside The Black Vault - Paperback Edition - Book Only (Autographed) Inside The Black Vault - Paperback Edition - Book Only (Autographed)
\$19.99 - \$22.99 Price range: \$19.99 through \$22.99
Help Make This Site Possible
Can you help support The Black Vault?

Become a Patron!

Or, a One Time Donation option is also available:

Donate with PayPal button

FOIA Document Categories

Government

Congressional & Senatorial Correspondence

Controversies

Elections

Government Accountability & I.G. Reports

Government Employee Manuals / Orientation

Politician Public Financial Disclosure Statements

TV Show Complaints

U.S. Financial Information

History

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Collection

Department of Defense Collection

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Collection

J.F.K. Era

National Security Agency (NSA) Collection

Office of Technology Assessment Collection

Richard Helms Collection

Intelligence

Cryptology

FBI Files / Domestic & Foreign Intelligence

Field Manuals

Freedom of Information Act / Research Tools

Spy Satellites and the NRO
Military / Defense
Advanced "For Its Time" Technology
Aircraft / Air Force History
Bombers
Cargo
E"X"perimental
Fighters
Foreign
Reconnaissance
Spy Planes
Stealth
Unconfirmed
Biological / Chemical Weapons
Defense Issues
Military and Commercial Accidents
Nuclear Weapons
Psychological Operations
Terrorism
Assassination Attempts
September 11th, 2001
Weapons
Mysteries
Mind Control
New World Order
Parapsychology
Remote Viewing
UFO Phenomena
Science
Cloning
Disease and Human Health
Environmental Issues
Space
Weather / Weather Modification
Wartime
Afghanistan War
Cold War Era
Iraq Wars
Vietnam Era
World War I
World War II
The Black Vault Radio
bvr
VIEW RECENT EPISODES
Advertisement
Facebook
X (Twitter)
YouTube
Instagram
TikTok
Discord
Home
Document Archive
Case File Database
FOIA Documents
FBI Files
Government
Congressional & Senatorial Correspondence
Controversies
Elections
Government Accountability & I.G. Reports
Government Employee Manuals / Orientation
Politician Public Financial Disclosure Statements
TV Show Complaints

U.S. Financial Information
History
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Collection
Department of Defense Collection
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Collection
J.F.K. Era
National Security Agency (NSA) Collection
Office of Technology Assessment Collection
Richard Helms Collection
Intelligence
Cryptology
FBI Files / Domestic & Foreign Intelligence
Field Manuals
Freedom of Information Act / Research Tools
Spy Satellites and the NRO
Military / Defense
Advanced "For Its Time" Technology
Aircraft / Air Force History
Bombers
Cargo
E"X"perimental
Fighters
Foreign
Reconnaissance
Spy Planes
Stealth
Biological / Chemical Weapons
Defense Issues
Military and Commercial Accidents
Nuclear Weapons
Psychological Operations
Terrorism
Assassination Attempts
September 11th, 2001
Weapons
Mysteries
Mind Control
New World Order
Parapsychology
Remote Viewing
UFO Phenomena
Science
Cloning
Disease and Human Health
Environmental Issues
Space
Weather / Weather Modification
Wartime
World War I
World War II
Vietnam Era
Cold War Era
Iraq Wars
Afghanistan War
Paranormal Case Files
Chat
Facebook Group
Discord Server
Podcast
Shop
Books
T-Shirts
Account details
Donate

© 2025 The Black Vault, Inc.

[Skip to Content](#)

[sign in](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Logo](#)

[Search](#)

[Science](#)

[Home & DIY](#)

[Technology](#)

[Gear Reviews](#)

[Military](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Culture & Curiosities](#)

[About](#)

[Pop Mech Pro Logo](#)

[Architecture, Font, Advertising, Flyer, Brochure, Historic site, Building,](#)

[Created by Kory Kennedy](#)

[MilitaryResearch](#)

[Inside the Pentagon's Secret UFO Program](#)

[By Tim McMillanPublished: Feb 14, 2020 9:11 AM EST](#)

[bookmarks](#)

[Save Article](#)

[bookmarks](#)

[bookmarks](#)

[Listen \(55 min\)](#)

The government can't keep its story straight about its involvement with UFO research. After a yearlong investigation, we bust open the files, break through the noise, and reveal the definitive, staggering truth.

As I sit in a small cafe in the shadow of the ancient Roman gates in Trier, Germany, talking to a person whose credibility seems beyond reproach, but who will only agree to talk to me if provide absolute assurances of anonymity, I can't help but feel like I'm trapped in a Dan Brown novel. The Da Vinci Code, however, never dealt with unidentified flying objects.

"Was it about UFOs? Of course," this person whispers with a grin of melodrama.

After almost a year of investigating the U.S. government's interest in UFOs, what they've just said should neither be shocking, nor revelatory. Unbeknownst to them, they've only further confirmed what over a dozen other people with backgrounds inside the government and the now-defunct Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) have already admitted to me.

Just like the fictional Robert Langdon, the path to understanding these mysterious government programs has taken me through the catacombs of informal secret societies, whose surprising memberships include accomplished professionals from the military, aerospace, academic, medical, and intelligence communities.

Though diverse or abstinent in how they define exactly what it all means, each of these enigmatic characters shares one common belief: unidentified flying objects are neither myth nor figment of overactive imaginations. With absolute conviction, they've all told me that UFOs are real.

Now, after two years of scant details and a myriad of contradictory statements, Popular Mechanics is ripping open the U.S. government's massive UFO problem. What follows is a deep, unprecedented well of information that's only been known by a very small select group of insiders—until now.

[Pause Icon](#)

[Image no longer available](#)

[Part I. The Disclosure](#)

On December 16, 2017, the New York Times disclosed that the Pentagon had secretly funded research into UFOs through the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, or AATIP. As if the U.S. government quietly investigating UFOs wasn't enough, for the first time, the public also got a chance to see three videos captured by the U.S. Navy showing what has been claimed to be "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena," or UAP.

youtube

View full post on YouTube

In an instant, UFOs were no longer relegated to society's nihilistically curious, and for the first time in decades, droves of the mainstream public suddenly found themselves peering skyward with wonder.

But almost as quickly as the excitement of mysterious black budget UFO programs crashed ashore, so, too, came vexing waves of criticism, confusion, and controversy.

From the onset, disarray and debate raged on whether the second "A" in AATIP officially stood for Aerospace or Aviation, with the former "Aerospace" eventually proving to be correct. Adding to the chaos, an entirely different program moniker emerged: the Advanced Aerospace Weapons Systems Applications Program, or AAWSAP. For over two years, no one has been able to adequately explain whether AAWSAP and AATIP were two separate programs, or the same intuitive under two separate names.

Must-Read

The Long, Strange Truth of the Navy's UFO Video

To muddle matters more, a revolving door of Pentagon spokespeople have successfully issued waves of contradictory statements about what the Department of Defense (DoD) did or didn't do when it came to studying UFOs.

Initially, the Pentagon said, AATIP had indeed investigated UFOs under the leadership of Luis Elizondo, a former senior member of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSDI). Eventually, in a complete reversal of official stances, the Pentagon's newly crowned UFO point person, Senior Strategic Planner and Spokesperson Susan Gough, recently told The Black Vault, "neither AAWSAP nor AATIP were UAP related," "Elizondo was not the director of AATIP," and he didn't have "assigned responsibilities" within the program.

In some consolation to the UFO faithful, the DoD has consistently been willing to say they consider the curious objects shown in the 2017 videos to be unexplained UAP. What exactly that means, however, has been open for interpretation and debate.

After months of conducting interviews and uncovering previously undisclosed materials, Popular Mechanics is revealing here that the U.S. government does indeed have a definite interest in UFOs.

Provided, of course, that nobody says it out loud.

Bigelow Aerospace

The Bigelow Aerospace headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Part II. The Seeds

The path to truly understanding the Pentagon's current UFO problems doesn't begin in 2008 with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the AAWSAP, but rather, a decade earlier and some 2,000 miles from the nation's capital at the doorstep of a billionaire Nevada entrepreneur.

Robert T. Bigelow, the owner of Budget Suites of America and founder of the space technology company Bigelow Aerospace, has never shied away from amplifying his interest in UFOs. In a 2017 interview, Bigelow told CBS's 60 Minutes he was "absolutely convinced" aliens exist, before passionately declaring, "I don't

give a damn!" when asked if it was risky to publicly say he believes in UFOs and aliens.

In 1995, four years before founding his aerospace startup, Bigelow established the National Institute for Discovery Sciences (NIDS). From the company's cached website, NIDS described itself as "a privately funded science institute engaged in research of aerial phenomena, animal mutilations, and other related anomalous phenomena."

Image no longer available

The cached website of the now-defunct National Institute for Discovery Sciences. Before ultimately disbanding in 2004, NIDS conducted research into a host of various paranormal topics, such as cryptid encounters, cattle mutilations, and especially UFOs. The group's most recognized research was the investigation of a purported paranormal Utah homestead owned by Bigelow called Skinwalker Ranch, which would later play a significant role in the DIA's UFO interest.

NASA/Bill Ingalls

Robert Bigelow.

In a 2018 interview with New York magazine, former Nevada Senator Harry Reid told an interesting tale about a curious letter Bigelow received from a senior official from a federal national-security agency. "I'm interested in talking to you, Mr. Bigelow. I have an interest in what you've been working on. I want to go to your ranch in Utah," Reid recounted.

After vetting the letter's author, the individual Reid described as a "very low-key scientist" was granted a pass to visit Bigelow's ranch. In a lecture at "UFO MegaCon" in 2019, KLAS Las Vegas reporter George Knapp told the crowd these events occurred in 2007, and claims the person, described by Knapp as a "DIA scientist," had an "experience" while visiting the supposed paranormal site.

In an interview with researcher Joe Murgia, former AAWSAP contractor and astrophysicist Eric Davis shared what colleagues had told him of the DIA scientist's experience:

"In the living room of the former NIDS double wide observation trailer/staff quarters. A 3D object appeared in mid-air in front of him and changed shape like a changing topological figure. It went from pretzel-shaped to Möbius strip shaped. It was 3D and multi-colored. Then it disappeared." According to Reid, whatever happened at Skinwalker was enough to convince the DIA to seriously investigate paranormal and UFO phenomena. "'Something should be done about this. Somebody should study it.' I was convinced he was right," Reid told New York.

In an interview with Popular Mechanics, Hal Puthoff, a former subcontractor for the AATIP, confirms the scientist's visit, but was unsure how significant a role it played in the origins of AAWSAP.

"Reid is correct that early on there was a DIA scientist who expressed interest in hearing of the Skinwalker Ranch and did visit," Puthoff says. "The degree to which this influenced initiation of the AAWSAP Program, however, or was just a side issue, I don't know."

While we don't know how pivotal the Skinwalker visit was in the formation of the DIA's UFO studies, we do know AAWSAP and AATIP were already taking shape almost a year before funding was established and the solicitation was issued.

Navy fighter pilot Cdr. David Fravor has arguably become the face of the famous UFO encounters by the Nimitz Strike Carrier Group, it was actually Marine Lt. Col. Douglas "Cheeks" Kurth who was first directed to investigate the strange airborne contacts that radar operators captured in November 2004.

Must-Read

Exclusive: Navy UFO Witnesses Reveal What They Saw

On his LinkedIn profile, Kurth indicates he worked as a program manager for Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, LLC (BAASS) until June 2013. Interestingly, Kurth began working for BAASS in December 2007—a month before Bigelow officially established his LLC in January 2008. That might be because Nevada state records show BAASS was technically a subsidiary of another business owned by Bigelow: International Space Hardware Services (ISHS). According to the Nevada Secretary of State's Office, ISHS was incorporated on October 31, 2007.

To the Stars Academy of Arts & Science
Hal Puthoff.

Puthoff, who entered the BAASS fold in 2008, tells Popular Mechanics he was aware that Kurth was involved in the Nimitz events in 2004, but he didn't believe BAASS specifically recruited Kurth because of it. "I think that it was just because of his experience he reached out to join [BAASS]," says Puthoff, who later founded and now runs the advanced concepts research institute Earthtech International.

Puthoff says he believes the DIA had expressed a need for what would become AAWSAP in 2007, but isn't sure if the organization ever made a formal request. "I think that anything from 2007 was likely quite informal—discussions, letters, emails—but I'm not certain," he says.

Regardless, roughly six months after BAASS opened up shop, with the support of late senators Ted Stevens and Daniel Inouye, Reid set up funding for AATIP and the AAWSAP contract in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill of July 2008. "It would be black money, we wouldn't have a big debate on the Senate floor over it," Reid told New York. "The purpose of it was to study aerial phenomena. The money was given, a directive was given to the Pentagon, to put this out to bid, which they did."

On August 18, 2008, the contracting arm of the DIA issued a 32-page solicitation/contract/order for commercial items for the AAWSAP. When bidding closed three weeks later on September 5, as the sole bidder, BAASS was awarded \$10 million dollars for the guaranteed first year, of a five-year option, for the contract.

On September 13, 2008, Bigelow Aerospace began listing career opportunities with BAASS in 14 different disciplines related to aerospace and research sciences.

Bigelow Aerospace

A statement of objectives for AAWSAP.

Absent from the AAWSAP solicitation is any language related to UFOs or UAP. Instead, as originally outlined in the July Supplemental Appropriations Bill, the "primary focus is on breakthrough technologies and applications that create discontinuities in currently evolving technology trends. The focus is not on extrapolations of current aerospace technology."

In past interviews, Reid has indicated the interested parties at the DIA felt it prudent to avoid any language that might cause someone to realize the underlying focus of the AATIP program was UFOs. According to Reid, a representative with the DIA told him, "What I will do is prepare something for you that anyone can look at it that wants to, it's strictly science."

On multiple occasions over the past two years, both the government and former contractors have used the terms AATIP and AAWSAP almost interchangeably. This has caused significant confusion of whether AATIP and AAWSAP were two separate programs, or the same activity under differing names. In a recent statement, Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough told longtime researcher John Greenewald, "[AATIP] was the name of the overall program. [AAWSAP] was the name of the contract that DIA awarded for the production of technical reports under AATIP."

While all sources associated with the programs confirm Gough's statement with Popular Mechanics—AAWSAP was the contract component of the broader umbrella

program dubbed ATTIP—they dismiss the latter sentiment expressed by Gough that “neither AATIP nor AAWSAP were UAP related.”

The evidence collected here overwhelmingly suggests the government was indeed studying UFOs and not, as the Pentagon has said, “investigating foreign advanced aerospace weapons system applications with future technology projections over the next 40 years, and to create a center of expertise on advanced aerospace technologies.”

Bigelow Aerospace

The cover of BAASS’s Ten Month Report, issued in July 2009.

Part III. The Report

In July 2009, BAASS provided a comprehensive report to the DIA at the conclusion of the first-year option of the AAWSAP contract. The 494-page “Ten Month Report,” as it’s called, is chock full of strategic plans, project summaries, data tables, charts, descriptions of biological field effects, physical characteristics, methods of detection, theoretical capabilities, witness interviews, photographs, and case synopses—each one entirely, explicitly about unexplained aerial phenomena.

Throughout the report, “the sponsor” is mentioned, however, the DIA is never explicitly named.

The first pages list the names of every contractor working for BAASS with appropriate security clearances to have access to the program. Amongst dozens of credentialed names, some of those listed are very familiar to the UFO community, including Puthoff, Davis, Jacques Vallee, and Colm Kelleher. Regardless of one’s existing opinions of the UFO phenomena, the sheer volume of content in the BAASS Ten Month Report is astounding.

Some of the notable content of the 2009 BAASS Ten Month Report includes:

- Overview of the BAASS Physics Division’s efforts to conduct research on advanced aerospace vehicles, including the development of standardization for measurement of physical effects and signatures associated with UAP.
- Overview of BAASS research for measuring and gleaning the effects on biological organisms from UAP.
- Mention of Skinwalker Ranch in Utah as a “possible laboratory for studying other intelligences and possible interdimensional phenomena.”
- Strategic plans to organize a series of intellectual debate forums targeted to broad audiences pertaining to the “potential disclosure of an extraterrestrial presence.”
- Plans to create a “medical physiological UAP effects program.”
- Request for Project Blue Book files that have not been made public.
- Mention of BAASS program dubbed “Project Northern Tier,” which involved securing documents related to instances where dozens of UFOs flew over restricted airspaces of facilities housing nuclear weapons.
- A possible UAP landing reported to BAASS by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and its STAR Team (rapid response field investigators funded by BAASS in March 2009).
- Project databases of UAP-related materials compiled through various partnerships, and the intent to expand these databases by coordinating with foreign governments.
- Summaries of multiple UAP events both inside the U.S. and in foreign countries.

- Photographs of UAPs provided by various sources, including foreign governments.

Bigelow Aerospace

Photograph of page 317 of the BAASS Ten Month Report.

From cover to cover, the BAASS report references the government's new buzzword for UFOs: UAP. However, nowhere could Popular Mechanics find a single reference to foreign (terrestrial) advanced aerospace weapon systems, or projected technological innovations based on current industry trends.

Sources tell Popular Mechanics the BAASS Ten Month report was only a sample of the materials the organization provided to the DIA. "Monthly reports were being sent to the Pentagon, in addition to annual program updates, that were all about UAP or anomalous phenomena," says one former BAASS contractor.

Chris Bartel, a security officer and investigator for BAASS (later Bigelow Aerospace) from 2010 to 2018, confirms the accounts of former BAASS and AATIP employees with Popular Mechanics. He says he indeed encountered some fairly dramatic paranormal events while working at the Skinwalker Ranch, and says he'd also heard mumblings of BAASS being interested in studying paranormal activity in hopes it could lead to technology research. However, Bartel says he didn't know anything about AAWSAP or AATIP until last fall. "I was a bit taken back, to say the least," he says.

Bigelow Aerospace

Photograph of page 17 of the BAASS Ten Month Report.

Though unaware of any formal contract with the DIA, Bartel confirms that reports generated about paranormal events on the ranch were being faxed to both Bigelow and the Pentagon on a regular basis. ("I would hate to think my experiences up there were somehow manipulated by outside man-made forces," Bartel says. "I truly believe the ranch to be hallowed Native land.")

Some have suggested the "paranormal" events associated with Skinwalker Ranch or AAWSAP could be associated with secret and highly advanced weapons testing. While Bartel says it's possible weapons were being tested, nothing he observed was consistent with his experiences of top secret testing.

Puthoff also says he saw no evidence that BAASS was involved in weapons testing during his tenure with the organization—"a statement I'm certain Mr. Bigelow would support," he says. (Bigelow could not be reached for comment.)

Universal History Archive//Getty Images

Jesse Marcel, who initially investigated the Roswell UFO site 1947.

Part IV. The Secrets

The revelations in the BAASS report beg the question: Why is the government now insistent it never studied UFOs, and why aren't these documents being discussed or made available through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests?

Individuals who worked on the AATIP program say the current uncertainty and confusion was by design and involved a dizzying shell game that's entirely consistent with how black budget intelligence programs are run. "What you're dealing with is the very core of government secrecy and how things they absolutely don't ever want to discuss are kept hidden away," one former AATIP contractor tells Popular Mechanics.

Sources say the key to understanding current denials of UFO studies in AATIP comes from a phrase stamped on each page of the BAASS Ten Month Report obtained by Popular Mechanics:

"The information is proprietary and cannot be disseminated or used without prior written consent from the Operating Manager of BAASS."

According to several former AATIP contractors, the "product" being produced for the DIA was technical reports on exotic and potential "game-changing" aerospace

technologies, and the manner of determining what areas these radical airborne breakthroughs might emerge was through the research of UFOs.

In exchange, not only would the DIA get the agreed-upon technical reports, but it would also gain access to the extensive research BAASS was gathering on UFOs. While the DIA had access to the volumes of UFO data, the materials were actually commercial property of BAASS, as a subsidiary of Bigelow Aerospace.

The idea of using an aerospace research project as a cover for a secret UFO program may seem unscrupulous. "But this all rings very familiar," Neil Gordon, an investigator with the Project on Government Oversight, tells Popular Mechanics.

"What you're dealing with is the very core of government secrecy and how things they absolutely don't ever want to discuss are kept hidden away." Gordon, whose area of expertise is in federal contractor misconduct, contractor accountability, and government privatization, says running the "commercial in confidence" program through AATIP is consistent with how the DoD deals with programs it wants to keep secret. "Whether it's right or not is another story," Gordon says, "but everything sounds very common for how black budget programs run."

The DIA may have had extensive access to the UFO materials, but because all of the data technically belonged to BAASS, under the Economic Espionage Act of 1996, disclosing or releasing proprietary materials provided to the government in confidence is a federal crime. Essentially, the DIA's UFO program was set up to circumvent FOIA requests and avoid having to discuss UFOs publicly.

Out of concern for providing Popular Mechanics access to the 2009 BAASS Ten Month Report, the person who made these materials available did so only under the guarantee of anonymity. It's worth noting this person is not a current government employee, nor were they involved with BAASS or the AAWSAP contract.

"Unfortunately, the government attempting to evade FOIA by contracting out its responsibilities is nothing new," Josh Burday, an attorney who specializes in FOIA and First Amendment cases, tells Popular Mechanics. "Both federal and state FOIA statutes strive to eliminate such obvious gamesmanship—avoiding transparency and disclosure obligations by contracting out functions—but whether they are successful in doing so is an entirely different story."

Davis, the astrophysicist and former AAWSAP contractor, says his work on the AATIP program was entirely consistent with all of the technological intelligence programs he'd previously worked on over the last 30-plus years. "Indeed, science is applied, but right now there's not enough data on UAP to make examining it a scientific endeavor. It's an intelligence issue, not a scientific endeavor," he says.

Puthoff, meanwhile, says BAASS produced "stacks of material to the ceiling," but because of the way things were done, he was surprised to hear any of it had become public. "To be honest, I didn't think this stuff would ever see the light of day," he says.

"To be honest, I didn't think this stuff would ever see the light of day." When reached for comment, Colm Kelleher, the former Deputy Director of BAASS, said, "I am unable to discuss this topic." Multiple other requests to Bigelow Aerospace for comment went unanswered.

The entire manner in which the DIA partnership allegedly operated raises an important question: Could the reason for the Pentagon's recent denials of AATIP or AAWSAP conducting UFO research be the result of the current DoD administration being naive to the program's underlying and commercially secret hidden purpose? It seems like a plausible theory ... if it wasn't for something else Popular Mechanics uncovered.

-//Getty Images

Part V. The Admission

Last year, Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists obtained via FOIA request and published a January 2018 letter that the DIA Congressional Relations Division sent to members of Congress. In the letter, the DIA provided "a list of all products produced under the AATIP contract for the DIA to publish." The referenced list includes 38 technical papers, called Defense Intelligence Reference Documents (DIRDs), which cover a range of advanced, exotic, and theoretical aerospace topics.

Given what's been said about the commercially confidential nature of AATIP, the phrase "for the DIA to publish" may be a critical play on words. Nevertheless, a source with access to the materials provided Popular Mechanics with a copy of a previously unreleased technical paper listed as one of AATIP's products.

While the DIA refers to the paper as "Field Effects on Biological Tissue," the original title for the submitted paper appears to actually have been "Clinical Medical Acute & Subacute Field Effects on Human Dermal & Neurological Tissues." According to the study's introduction, the paper is an examination of "clinical medical signs and symptoms and biophysics of injury known and expected from near-field (mostly ultra-high), NIEMR Microwave, Thermal, from unintended exposure to anomalous systems."

You can read the entire study below.

[View full post on IFrame](#)

In light of the cumbersome clinical language, just a cursory scan reveals the entire focus was on examining injuries that may have occurred after contact with UFOs or UAP. In fact, the very term "UFO" appears 16 times in the report; the word "anomalous" is used 27 times (most often with the word "aircraft," "aviation," or "aerospace" immediately following); and the phrase "Advanced Aerospace Systems Applications Program" is mentioned in bold on four occasions.

Popular Mechanics spoke with the study's author, Christopher "Kit" Green, a forensic clinician and neuroscientist. Green was surprised to learn his research paper had become publicly known, because he was under the impression it was never included in the distributed set, nor was it finally peer-reviewed.

Green confirms his paper wasn't cited correctly in the letter to Congress, however, he says the 54-page document Popular Mechanics obtained appeared to be the same paper he was requested to provide as a product of AAWSAP.

"This focused on forensically assessing accounts of injuries that could have resulted from claimed encounters with UAP," says Green. "I didn't work for BAASS, other than as a contractor for my paper, and I wasn't a part of AAWSAP. However, it is my understanding this program was a UFO study that outwardly was not supposed to look like it had anything to do with UFOs."

"This program was a UFO study that outwardly was not supposed to look like it had anything to do with UFOs."

Green cautions some past speculations about his paper were inaccurate, including the claims it was an effort to understand or reverse-engineer UAP technology. Green also stresses that while his work focused on encounters with unknown or unidentified aerial objects, all of the injuries he assessed could be accounted for by known terrestrial means, and did not provide any evidence for extraterrestrial or non-human technologies.

Could the 38 technical reports BAASS produced for AATIP represent what it determined accounted for UAP?

"Many of the topics could be called 'dual-use' given that, say, papers on advanced plasma propulsion and invisibility cloaking could apply to our own advanced aerospace development as well as possibly some UAPs," says Puthoff. But his "spacetime metric engineering paper, the warp drive and wormhole papers, and specifically the Statistical Drake Equation paper are essentially applicable

only to UAPs."

A Timeline of UFO Programs
Timeline of UFO Programs
Open Gallery

Davis, who worked with Puthoff and authored four of the DIRDs, offers a particularly intriguing detail about the DIA's 38 reference papers.

"This wasn't focused on whether or not [UAP] are real. It's already been well established that UAP are real by a preponderance of evidence. Some classified and some proprietary [that] I can't talk about," he says.

Instead of investigating if UAP are real, the 38 technical papers for the AAWSAP contract were also an intelligence assessment to measure just how far advanced UAP could be from current and projected scientific understandings. "Me, Hal [Puthoff], and an aerospace executive who had access to materials worked on that assessment for the DIA," Davis says.

Ultimately, aside from the wealth of BAASS proprietary evidence, Green's study alone—which the DIA told Congress was a product of AATIP that it would "be happy to provide upon direct request"—seems to completely dispute the Pentagon's recent claims that neither AATIP or AAWSAP were related to UFOs.

In an exchange of emails between Gough, the Pentagon spokesperson, and Swedish research Roger Glassal, which were provided and published by research analyst Keith Basterfield, Gough said AAWSAP commenced in the fiscal year (FY) 2008 with a designated \$10 million dollars of funding. Since the bid solicitation wasn't issued until August 2008, we now know that Gough was mistaken, and the program actually began in FY2009, which began October 1, 2008.

In the same email exchange, Gough indicated the first 26 technical reports were completed in late 2009 and an additional \$12 million dollars was designated in the FY2010 Defense Appropriations Act for 12 additional reports. (Editor's note: In the original email, Gough indicated "late 2008." It's assumed this was also said in error since BAASS didn't receive the AAWSAP contract until September 2008 and Green's technical paper is dated May 2009.)

From Gough:

"After an OSD/DIA review in late 2009, it was determined the reports were of limited value to DIA and there was a recommendation that upon completion of the contract the project could be transited to an agency or component better suited to oversee it.

Funding for the program at the DIA ended in 2012 and DoD elected not to continue the program after the work contracted under the FY2010 NDAA was completed." Indeed, every source Popular Mechanics spoke to for this story agrees the partnership between BAASS and AAWSAP had concluded by 2012.

But here's where things get messy: Gough says when DIA funding dried up in 2012, the overarching AATIP program closed up shop as well. Every source we spoke to, however, says not only did AATIP not end in 2012, but the program is still ongoing to this day.

Core to the contention of whether or not the government maintained an interest after 2012 is the man the DoD says "had no responsibilities" with AAWSAP or AATIP: former senior Pentagon intelligence executive Luis Elizondo.

Who, exactly, is Elizondo? A patriotic whistleblower putting his reputation at stake for something he says the American public must know about? Or a huckster using his former position for his own benefit, as the Pentagon seemingly implies?

Courtesy Luis Elizondo

Left: Luis Elizondo in South Korea in 1996. Right: Elizondo in Kandhar in late 2001.

Part VI. The Leader

After serving a stint as a counterintelligence agent for the U.S. Army, in the late 1990s, Elizondo would be recruited into the ranks of the enigmatic U.S. intelligence community.

Elizondo's first stop as an intelligence operations specialist was running counterinsurgency and counternarcotics operations in Latin America. "We dealt with a lot of stuff, like coup d'états, black market terrorism, violent drug cartels, all that kind of stuff," Elizondo says.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Elizondo was then redirected toward East Asia, where he served an advisor of a small intelligence unit assigned to support General James Mattis during his command of Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Task Force 58 (TF-58) in the War on Terrorism. In a case study published by the Naval War College in 2016, Lt. Col. Damian Spooner describes the analysis and products produced by intelligence sections under Gen. Mattis as being "indispensable" in driving TF-58 planning and operations.

Later, while continuing to support the U.S.-led war on terrorism, Elizondo, the son of a Cuban exile, found himself in Cuba dealing with some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world at Guantanamo Bay's infamous "Camp Seven," the prison constructed for the sole purpose of housing 14 "high-value detainees."

In early 2008, James Clapper, then the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, asked Elizondo to come to the Pentagon to help coordinate information sharing and partnership engagement being run by the Secretary of Defense's Office. Though the promise of cutting his daily commute in half was one of the biggest selling points, Elizondo's decision to set up shop at the Pentagon would end up putting him directly in the path of recruitment for a special program the DIA had just started running: AAWSAP.

Though the BAASS Ten Month Report includes an abundance of UAP information, nothing within the text contains any data or information provided by the U.S. government. Conversely, there are a number of requests made by BAASS for access to specific UAP information being held within the DoD and other U.S. agencies. Sources say this is key to understanding how Elizondo entered the picture.

"If they [BAASS] wanted access to info that I'm not saying does exist, but it might have been highly classified, you need someone who had the tickets to make sure the contractors weren't actually looking at Special Access Program (SAP) stuff thinking it was UFOs," says an intelligence official who is not authorized to speak on the record.

"Plus," the official tells Popular Mechanics, "I'm not saying it was, but they might have been looking into something that was of significant interest to foreign advisories and a high-value target for espionage. Bottom line, you needed a counterintel guy."

Elizondo tells Popular Mechanics that he never wanted to be a part of AATIP. However, as a senior official at OUSDI with a background in counterintelligence, he found himself being recruited into the ongoing UFO effort.

"In 2008," Elizondo says, "two guys came by my office and said, 'Are you Luis Elizondo?' The first thing I thought was, 'Oh no, what did I do?' They told me, 'You came highly recommended as a former senior CI guy with some background in advanced avionics.' Which is true—I worked some on the Open Skies Treaty. I worked with Raytheon, Boeing, and some other stuff. That was my portfolio."

Elizondo was told AATIP needed a counterintelligence support and security guy for a very special program. Within a month, after a series of meetings, Elizondo finally met with the then-director of AATIP, who asked him what seemed like a strange question at the time:

"What do you think about UFOs?"

Elizondo was flummoxed. "I was like, 'What the hell?' I thought it was a test or something. So I told the truth: I don't. I don't think about UFOs. I don't know if they're real or not. I don't think about them. I'm too busy trying to catch terrorists and bad guys."

Elizondo's ambivalence was evidently exactly what those running the program wanted to hear. Soon enough, Elizondo joined AATIP. "Seriously, for awhile, I still didn't know if it was a test," he says. "It wasn't until I started examining the security posture of the portfolio that I suddenly realized these things are really unidentified."

Department of Defense

One of Elizondo's performance evaluations.

Not long after Elizondo was on board, in June 2009, Sen. Harry Reid submitted a letter to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn III requesting AATIP be granted restricted SAP status. Though ultimately denied, had Reid's request been granted, it would have further tightened security and secrecy around AATIP.

Last year, KLAS Las Vegas reporter George Knapp published Reid's letter showing Elizondo's name on the list of "preliminary government personnel" who would have had access to AATIP. In addition to Elizondo, Reid, and the late Senator Daniel Inouye, seven other names of government employees (which have not been released) would have had access to the proposed AATIP SAP. Notably, only three "contractor personnel" made the cut.

According to a source with knowledge of the letter, the three contractor personnel Reid wanted to grant preliminary access to were Bigelow, Kelleher, and Puthoff. Puthoff confirms with Popular Mechanics that he was one of the three approved contractors on the list. The Pentagon later confirmed the letter published by Knapp was authentic.

Sources say the limited number of contractors listed with access is yet another breadcrumb left on the trail of secrecy showing AATIP was indeed slightly different from the AAWSAP contract.

According to multiple sources, including individuals working within the Pentagon—and confirmed by Elizondo—in 2010, when the DIA cut off funding for AATIP's contract, a DIA program manager asked Elizondo if he would keep the UFO project running. "I wasn't a DIA employee," Elizondo says, "so I'd have to run it wearing my OSD hat at the Pentagon. We all agreed this was the best thing to do, so that's what we did."

By all accounts, Elizondo was now "bootstrapping" AATIP from the OUSDI, meaning he added the program to the list of his existing intelligence portfolios.

Popular Mechanics has learned the post-BAASS era of AATIP was an even more closely guarded program and consistent with how highly classified intelligence projects are conducted.

"Ninety percent of people don't understand how the general government runs, and even less understand the intelligence community," a former senior Special Operations and Intelligence Officer tells Popular Mechanics. "Because this program would have now been out of the Front Office, your guy [Elizondo] would have had the ability to muster up people from various areas of the Intelligence Community. You would have wanted to include the least possible, but best people for the specific mission. You could have had people from the DIA, ONI [Office of Naval Intelligence], and OSI [Office of Special Investigations] all working separately, but together on the same mission."

Elizondo says when he took over the AATIP, he ran it like a traditional government effort. "We greatly reduced the number of contractors to just what we

might have needed, but this was going to be government to government, looking on government systems at government data," he says.

According to Elizondo, unlike most of the BAASS personnel, the post-2012 AATIP crew did have access to highly classified government information to adequately assess the situation. While the Pentagon denies that AATIP continued after 2012, Elizondo says the post-BAASS AATIP was not unsanctioned, and not just a group of government UFO enthusiasts. "Very, very few people in the building knew what we were doing, but the Front Office (Office of the Secretary of Defense) was in the loop," he says.

Popular Mechanics has learned the ONI was one of the major backers that wanted to see AATIP continued, which sources say is why the Navy has been so willing to take the most public lead on the UAP issue today.

Elizondo's critics have repeatedly asked an important question: If AATIP was such a secret program, why is Elizondo now talking about it publicly?

By denying AATIP SAP status back in 2009 and not ever officially blanketing it under a security classification, Popular Mechanics has learned that the government effectively allowed for the program itself to now be discussed.

"There's a lot they can't talk about, like sources, methods, etc., but the program itself is unclassified and fair game for public disclosure," a source with knowledge of the program tells Popular Mechanics. Elizondo confirms this is correct. "I've never once violated, nor am I willing to violate my security oaths, so anything I've discussed is indeed unclassified," he says.

In one of Elizondo's employee performance evaluations, which Popular Mechanics obtained, it lists his primary "mission goals" as managing and administering information, access controls, and security of national-level SAPs for the Secretary of Defense. Elizondo confirms his position allowed him access to the most highly secretive and reclusive programs being run by the U.S. "The stuff we were seeing was truly unidentified. It wasn't related to anything we were doing," he says.

In October 2017, Elizondo resigned from the DoD to join former Blink-182 frontman Tom DeLonge's UFO research group To the Stars Academy of Arts & Science, which would soon release the Navy's "Flir1" video to the world and properly kick off a ufological renaissance. Elizondo now works as the company's Director of Global Security and Special Programs.

Why did Elizondo leave his government job? Because he realized the Pentagon's top brass would never treat UAP with the importance they deserved. A senior Pentagon official tells Popular Mechanics they were aware that Elizondo briefed a White House intelligence aide and two senior aides to Mattis, then the Secretary of Defense, in the spring of 2017.

The official, who is not authorized to speak on the record, says the White House aide was uncomfortable with the prospect of UFOs being real. To their knowledge, the White House aide did not pass the information along. The aides to Mattis, meanwhile, acknowledged UFOs were a real issue, but they were concerned with the political optics should it ever come out that the Secretary of Defense had been briefed about them. Elizondo confirms the accuracy of these accounts. "I resigned only after multiple attempts to brief the Secretary [of Defense] failed," he previously told Popular Mechanics.

Finally, while the Pentagon has denied AATIP's existence after 2012 and that Elizondo was never involved in looking into UFOs, Popular Mechanics has obtained documentation that seems to unambiguously show AATIP was active after the closing of the BAASS AAWSAP contract, Elizondo was running this extension of AATIP, and the efforts to examine UFOs are still currently underway.

Anonymous

Though the documents were unclassified, they contained sensitive information, and the person sharing them did so only under the guarantee that Popular Mechanics would not make them publicly available. The person said they only were willing to share the materials to support Elizondo's claims, which they say have been unfairly challenged over the last two years. The individual, who is not a government employee, did approve the release of a small section from one of the documents showing the changing of responsibilities before Elizondo left the DoD.

Dane Wiedmann/DVIDS

F-35Bs begin night flights on HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Part VII. The Unknown

In June 2019, the Office of Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee's office, confirmed that closed door meetings on UAP have occurred. More recently, last December, when asked by Conway Daily Sun reporter Daymond Steer about the Navy UAP encounters, recent presidential candidate and current member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Sen. Michael Bennet, was cautious in saying he wouldn't share anything he'd learned on the Intelligence Committee. However, Bennet said, "Our guys are seeing stuff that's unidentified. They don't know what it is, I don't know what it is ... We're trying to learn more about it. The Air Force is trying to learn more about it."

Popular Mechanics has since learned in October 2019, staffers with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Armed Service Committee were briefed on current UAP issues. According to people with knowledge of these briefings, some former BAASS contractors and current AATIP leadership were in attendance.

Insiders also say this past year, during a closed-door meeting with the Senate Intelligence Committee, Brigadier General Richard Stapp, Director of the DoD Special Access Program Central Office, testified the mysterious objects being encountered by the military were not related to secret U.S. technology. The Pentagon did not respond to requests by Popular Mechanics to confirm Stapp's testimony before the Intelligence Committee.

In only the second time publicly discussing the event, Popular Mechanics spoke with the Navy fighter pilot who was Cdr. David Fravor's wingman during the now-famous 2004 Nimitz UFO encounter. Agreeing to talk only under the condition of anonymity, the fighter pilot confirmed they testified in front of congressional leadership about their encounter. "I've been requested repeatedly to go to the Pentagon and asked, 'Is this what you saw?'."

During a series of email exchanges, Popular Mechanics provided specific information to Gough, the Pentagon spokesperson, in an effort to see if this might influence the DoD's current position. Initially, Gough said she would examine the information and see if she could provide a statement in response. However, Gough has not responded to repeated follow-up requests from Popular Mechanics.

"It would be hard to argue that either the military or the public got their money's worth."

On its own, the evidence showing the Pentagon is interested in UFOs is unlikely to change the minds of many who are skeptical of the idea that mysterious, apparently intelligent, and possibly otherworldly objects might be buzzing around the skies above Earth.

"The whole contracting process for this program was irregular from start to finish," Steven Aftergood, Director for the Federation of American Scientists Project on Government Secrecy, tells Popular Mechanics. "[The AAWSAP contract] sounds like it was a good deal for the contractor. But it would be hard to argue that either the military or the public got their money's worth."

Meanwhile, William Culbreth, an engineering professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas who authored two of the 38 technical papers provided in the

AAWSAP contract, offers a different opinion. He says he was unaware of the UFO background of AAWSAP, but very familiar with BAASS's UFO interest.

"I had some graduate students who worked for BAASS during that time and I know Bigelow has an interest in the topic, but no one mentioned anything about UFOs when they asked me to write the papers," Culbreth says.

Regardless of where the underlying motivation may have come from, Culbreth says his work on the two papers—"Detection and High Resolution Tracking of Vehicles at Hypersonic Velocities" and "Aneutronic Fusion Propulsion II"—led to his examination of new approaches to nuclear propulsion technology, which might not have been inspired otherwise.

"We're looking into these propulsion technologies today, and this area alone led to several of my students pursuing PhDs who I don't think otherwise would have," Culbreth says.

With the wealth of data collected by BAASS, and almost assuredly more information being gathered by AATIP, it raises the question: Is the UAP issue being closely guarded because we don't believe it's real, or because we're afraid we can't understand it?

Mick West, the author of *Escaping the Rabbit Hole: How to Debunk Conspiracy Theories Using Facts, Logic, and Respect*, suggests the public availability and confirmation of rigorous empirical studies by AATIP could change the entire UFO dynamic. "It would be fantastic if there was some good evidence of something new to science. So far there isn't," he tells *Popular Mechanics*.

While he faces considerable angst for trying to debunk UFOs, West says he'd be as thrilled as anyone else if he was able to actually come across something that was truly unexplainable and unknown. "There's no hard feelings," he says. "I understand people are passionate—especially experiencers."

Related Stories

[The Navy Says Those UFO Videos Are Real](#)

[The Air Force's Project Blue Book, 50 Years Later](#)

[Ufology: From Fringe Field to Serious Science](#)

So was this a matter of the government discovering something it didn't understand, and therefore opting to avoid it altogether? Nick Cook, the former aviation editor of *Jane's Defense Weekly* and author of *The Grid*, tells *Popular Mechanics* this idea reminds him of a conversation he had with Ben Rich, the former director of Lockheed Skunkworks and the "father of stealth."

Cook says Rich told him when the ability for stealth aircraft was discovered, but not yet understood, there was considerable debate on what to do next. "Do you put a bunch of money into developing something and end up not being successful because you don't understand it, or do you table the entire idea until you have more science, which runs the risk of someone else figuring it out first?"

Essential UFO Reading

[Inside The Black Vault: The Government's UFO Secrets Revealed](#)

[Inside The Black Vault: The Government's UFO Secrets Revealed](#)

Now 23% Off

\$16 \$12 at Amazon

Credit: Amazon

[The UFO People: A Curious Culture](#)

[The UFO People: A Curious Culture](#)

\$11 at Amazon

Credit: Amazon

[American Cosmic: UFOs, Religion, Technology](#)

American Cosmic: UFOs, Religion, Technology

\$27 at Amazon

Credit: Amazon

The Hunt for Zero Point: Inside the Classified World of Antigravity Technology

The Hunt for Zero Point: Inside the Classified World of Antigravity Technology

\$16 at Amazon

With stealth technology, the U.S. military ultimately made the decision to move forward, which led to the development of the world's first stealth aircraft, the F-117 Nighthawk. "I guess it would depend on how wide a knowledge gap you thought there was and how high was the risk for success," Cook says. "Could I see how something could come up, and the decision would be made to tuck something away like the final scene of Raiders of the Lost Ark? Yes, I could see how it could be possible."

"Throughout history, many inventions have preceded an understanding of the science that makes them work," Matthew Hersch, a history of science and technology professor at Harvard University, tells Popular Mechanics. "Engineers often 'do science' in the course of their work, just as scientists 'invent.' It's inevitable that we as a species will continue inventing things without a real understanding of how they work, at least until our science catches up."

Being unable to explain something with current science, Hersch says, is merely an invitation to do more science—not a rejection of the scientific worldview as a whole. "Suppressing good, non-fraudulent science because it challenges our beliefs is extremely dangerous," he says. "Nobody has a right to do that, and it is contrary to the interests of humanity—that's what science is for. Fortunately, there is no vast scientific conspiracy to suppress divergent ideas. More often, good science is suppressed by non-scientists for political reasons."

Any discovery of extraterrestrial science or technology, then, is no reason to flush our political norms down the toilet, says Hersch.

"Human beings have believed in the existence of extraterrestrial life for millennia," he says. "I suspect that any revelation that [UFOs] exist would be met with something close to a shrug."

Headshot of Tim McMillan

Tim McMillan

Tim McMillan is a retired police Lieutenant and intelligence analyst from Savannah, Georgia. To satisfy his love for solving mysteries, Tim now works as an investigative journalist—examining any question worth answering.

Watch Next

Play Icontext, font, architecture,

Readers Also Read

statue of liberty toppled by waves

Russia's New Weapon Could Decimate Coastal Cities

shanghai, china december 27: a launching ceremony is held to unveil china's first type 076 new generation amphibious assault ship, the sichuan, at hudong zhonghua shipbuilding, a shanghai based subsidiary of china state shipbuilding corp, on december 27, 2024 in shanghai, china. named after southwest china's sichuan province, the independently developed new vessel was put into the water at a launch and naming ceremony. (photo by pu haiyang/vcg via getty images)
China's Mini Aircraft Carrier Is Truly Innovative

collage design of lou and other drawings

The Truth Is Out There. So Is Lue Elizondo.

giant ufo in body of water with a ship in the foreground and the moon and two fighter jets in the sky

Ex-Navy Official: UFOs Are Hiding in Our Oceans

a plane crashed into the pentagon

Myths About the 9/11 Pentagon Attack: Debunked

a reconstructed scene of the assassination attempt at the...
Corpses Found Under Hitler's Lair

911 myths the world trade center banner
Debunking the 9/11 Myths: The World Trade Center

ufo emerging from ocean waves
Are Underwater UFOs Legitimate Threats?

launch of a combat missile from the ground against the sunset clouds of smoke
and a trail of fire
The U.S. Wants Ukraine's New 'Junkyard' Missile

military tanks displayed during a parade
China's New Tank Is Among the World's Most Advanced

ngad fighter rendering showing a white plane body with a bat shaped window on
the cockpit. an american flag is in the background hanging from the top of the
hangar. white smoke is all around the plane.
How Tech Bros Almost Killed America's New Fighter

dedication of the tower of voices at the the flight 93 national memorial
We Debunked the 9/11 Myths About United Flight 93

Logo

x

tiktok

youtube

facebook

instagram

pinterest

Newsletter

About Us

Media Kit

Writer Guidelines

Press Room

Contact Us

Community Guidelines

Advertise Online

Customer Service

Subscribe

Other Hearst Subscriptions

Digital Issues

PopMech Pro Membership Perks

Hearst Men's and Enthusiast Media Group - A Part of Hearst Digital Media

A Part of Hearst Digital Media

We may earn commission from links on this page, but we only recommend products
we back.

©2025 Hearst Magazine Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Privacy NoticeCA Notice at CollectionYour CA Privacy Rights/Shine the LightDAA

Industry Opt OutTerms of UseSite Map

Opt-Out IconYour Privacy Choices: Opt Out of Sale/Targeted Ads

Skip to Content

sign in

Subscribe

Logo

Search

Science

Home & DIY
Technology
Gear Reviews
Military
Transportation
Culture & Curiosities
About

Pop Mech Pro Logo

Architecture, Font, Advertising, Flyer, Brochure, Historic site, Building,
Created by Kory Kennedy

MilitaryResearch

Inside the Pentagon's Secret UFO Program

By Tim McMillanPublished: Feb 14, 2020 9:11 AM EST

bookmarks

Save Article

bookmarks

bookmarks

Listen (55 min)

The government can't keep its story straight about its involvement with UFO research. After a yearlong investigation, we bust open the files, break through the noise, and reveal the definitive, staggering truth.

As I sit in a small cafe in the shadow of the ancient Roman gates in Trier, Germany, talking to a person whose credibility seems beyond reproach, but who will only agree to talk to me if provide absolute assurances of anonymity, I can't help but feel like I'm trapped in a Dan Brown novel. The Da Vinci Code, however, never dealt with unidentified flying objects.

"Was it about UFOs? Of course," this person whispers with a grin of melodrama.

After almost a year of investigating the U.S. government's interest in UFOs, what they've just said should neither be shocking, nor revelatory. Unbeknownst to them, they've only further confirmed what over a dozen other people with backgrounds inside the government and the now-defunct Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) have already admitted to me.

Just like the fictional Robert Langdon, the path to understanding these mysterious government programs has taken me through the catacombs of informal secret societies, whose surprising memberships include accomplished professionals from the military, aerospace, academic, medical, and intelligence communities.

Though diverse or abstinent in how they define exactly what it all means, each of these enigmatic characters shares one common belief: unidentified flying objects are neither myth nor figment of overactive imaginations. With absolute conviction, they've all told me that UFOs are real.

Now, after two years of scant details and a myriad of contradictory statements, Popular Mechanics is ripping open the U.S. government's massive UFO problem. What follows is a deep, unprecedented well of information that's only been known by a very small select group of insiders—until now.

Image no longer available

Part I. The Disclosure

On December 16, 2017, the New York Times disclosed that the Pentagon had secretly funded research into UFOs through the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, or AATIP. As if the U.S. government quietly investigating UFOs wasn't enough, for the first time, the public also got a chance to see three videos captured by the U.S. Navy showing what has been claimed to be "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena," or UAP.

youtube

View full post on YouTube

In an instant, UFOs were no longer relegated to society's nihilistically

curious, and for the first time in decades, droves of the mainstream public suddenly found themselves peering skyward with wonder.

But almost as quickly as the excitement of mysterious black budget UFO programs crashed ashore, so, too, came vexing waves of criticism, confusion, and controversy.

From the onset, disarray and debate raged on whether the second "A" in AATIP officially stood for Aerospace or Aviation, with the former "Aerospace" eventually proving to be correct. Adding to the chaos, an entirely different program moniker emerged: the Advanced Aerospace Weapons Systems Applications Program, or AAWSAP. For over two years, no one has been able to adequately explain whether AAWSAP and AATIP were two separate programs, or the same intuitive under two separate names.

Must-Read

The Long, Strange Truth of the Navy's UFO Video

To muddle matters more, a revolving door of Pentagon spokespeople have successfully issued waves of contradictory statements about what the Department of Defense (DoD) did or didn't do when it came to studying UFOs.

Initially, the Pentagon said, AATIP had indeed investigated UFOs under the leadership of Luis Elizondo, a former senior member of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSDI). Eventually, in a complete reversal of official stances, the Pentagon's newly crowned UFO point person, Senior Strategic Planner and Spokesperson Susan Gough, recently told The Black Vault, "neither AAWSAP nor AATIP were UAP related," "Elizondo was not the director of AATIP," and he didn't have "assigned responsibilities" within the program.

In some consolation to the UFO faithful, the DoD has consistently been willing to say they consider the curious objects shown in the 2017 videos to be unexplained UAP. What exactly that means, however, has been open for interpretation and debate.

After months of conducting interviews and uncovering previously undisclosed materials, Popular Mechanics is revealing here that the U.S. government does indeed have a definite interest in UFOs.

Provided, of course, that nobody says it out loud.

Bigelow Aerospace

The Bigelow Aerospace headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Part II. The Seeds

The path to truly understanding the Pentagon's current UFO problems doesn't begin in 2008 with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the AAWSAP, but rather, a decade earlier and some 2,000 miles from the nation's capital at the doorstep of a billionaire Nevada entrepreneur.

Robert T. Bigelow, the owner of Budget Suites of America and founder of the space technology company Bigelow Aerospace, has never shied away from amplifying his interest in UFOs. In a 2017 interview, Bigelow told CBS's 60 Minutes he was "absolutely convinced" aliens exist, before passionately declaring, "I don't give a damn!" when asked if it was risky to publicly say he believes in UFOs and aliens.

In 1995, four years before founding his aerospace startup, Bigelow established the National Institute for Discovery Sciences (NIDS). From the company's cached website, NIDS described itself as "a privately funded science institute engaged in research of aerial phenomena, animal mutilations, and other related anomalous phenomena."

Image no longer available

The cached website of the now-defunct National Institute for Discovery Sciences. Before ultimately disbanding in 2004, NIDS conducted research into a host of various paranormal topics, such as cryptid encounters, cattle mutilations, and especially UFOs. The group's most recognized research was the investigation of a purported paranormal Utah homestead owned by Bigelow called Skinwalker Ranch, which would later play a significant role in the DIA's UFO interest.

NASA/Bill Ingalls

Robert Bigelow.

In a 2018 interview with New York magazine, former Nevada Senator Harry Reid told an interesting tale about a curious letter Bigelow received from a senior official from a federal national-security agency. "I'm interested in talking to you, Mr. Bigelow. I have an interest in what you've been working on. I want to go to your ranch in Utah," Reid recounted.

After vetting the letter's author, the individual Reid described as a "very low-key scientist" was granted a pass to visit Bigelow's ranch. In a lecture at "UFO MegaCon" in 2019, KLAS Las Vegas reporter George Knapp told the crowd these events occurred in 2007, and claims the person, described by Knapp as a "DIA scientist," had an "experience" while visiting the supposed paranormal site.

In an interview with researcher Joe Murgia, former AAWSAP contractor and astrophysicist Eric Davis shared what colleagues had told him of the DIA scientist's experience:

"In the living room of the former NIDS double wide observation trailer/staff quarters. A 3D object appeared in mid-air in front of him and changed shape like a changing topological figure. It went from pretzel-shaped to Möbius strip shaped. It was 3D and multi-colored. Then it disappeared."

According to Reid, whatever happened at Skinwalker was enough to convince the DIA to seriously investigate paranormal and UFO phenomena. "'Something should be done about this. Somebody should study it.' I was convinced he was right," Reid told New York.

In an interview with Popular Mechanics, Hal Puthoff, a former subcontractor for the AATIP, confirms the scientist's visit, but was unsure how significant a role it played in the origins of AAWSAP.

"Reid is correct that early on there was a DIA scientist who expressed interest in hearing of the Skinwalker Ranch and did visit," Puthoff says. "The degree to which this influenced initiation of the AAWSAP Program, however, or was just a side issue, I don't know."

While we don't know how pivotal the Skinwalker visit was in the formation of the DIA's UFO studies, we do know AAWSAP and AATIP were already taking shape almost a year before funding was established and the solicitation was issued.

Navy fighter pilot Cdr. David Fravor has arguably become the face of the famous UFO encounters by the Nimitz Strike Carrier Group, it was actually Marine Lt. Col. Douglas "Cheeks" Kurth who was first directed to investigate the strange airborne contacts that radar operators captured in November 2004.

Must-Read

Exclusive: Navy UFO Witnesses Reveal What They Saw

On his LinkedIn profile, Kurth indicates he worked as a program manager for Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies, LLC (BAASS) until June 2013.

Interestingly, Kurth began working for BAASS in December 2007—a month before Bigelow officially established his LLC in January 2008. That might be because Nevada state records show BAASS was technically a subsidiary of another business owned by Bigelow: International Space Hardware Services (ISHS). According to the Nevada Secretary of State's Office, ISHS was incorporated on October 31, 2007.

To the Stars Academy of Arts & Science

Hal Puthoff.

Puthoff, who entered the BAASS fold in 2008, tells Popular Mechanics he was aware that Kurth was involved in the Nimitz events in 2004, but he didn't believe BAASS specifically recruited Kurth because of it. "I think that it was just because of his experience he reached out to join [BAASS]," says Puthoff, who later founded and now runs the advanced concepts research institute Earthtech International.

Puthoff says he believes the DIA had expressed a need for what would become AAWSAP in 2007, but isn't sure if the organization ever made a formal request. "I think that anything from 2007 was likely quite informal—discussions, letters, emails—but I'm not certain," he says.

Regardless, roughly six months after BAASS opened up shop, with the support of late senators Ted Stevens and Daniel Inouye, Reid set up funding for AATIP and the AAWSAP contract in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill of July 2008. "It would be black money, we wouldn't have a big debate on the Senate floor over it," Reid told New York. "The purpose of it was to study aerial phenomena. The money was given, a directive was given to the Pentagon, to put this out to bid, which they did."

On August 18, 2008, the contracting arm of the DIA issued a 32-page solicitation/contract/order for commercial items for the AAWSAP. When bidding closed three weeks later on September 5, as the sole bidder, BAASS was awarded \$10 million dollars for the guaranteed first year, of a five-year option, for the contract.

On September 13, 2008, Bigelow Aerospace began listing career opportunities with BAASS in 14 different disciplines related to aerospace and research sciences.

Bigelow Aerospace

A statement of objectives for AAWSAP.

Absent from the AAWSAP solicitation is any language related to UFOs or UAP. Instead, as originally outlined in the July Supplemental Appropriations Bill, the "primary focus is on breakthrough technologies and applications that create discontinuities in currently evolving technology trends. The focus is not on extrapolations of current aerospace technology."

In past interviews, Reid has indicated the interested parties at the DIA felt it prudent to avoid any language that might cause someone to realize the underlying focus of the AATIP program was UFOs. According to Reid, a representative with the DIA told him, "What I will do is prepare something for you that anyone can look at it that wants to, it's strictly science."

On multiple occasions over the past two years, both the government and former contractors have used the terms AATIP and AAWSAP almost interchangeably. This has caused significant confusion of whether AATIP and AAWSAP were two separate programs, or the same activity under differing names. In a recent statement, Pentagon spokesperson Susan Gough told longtime researcher John Greenewald, "[AATIP] was the name of the overall program. [AAWSAP] was the name of the contract that DIA awarded for the production of technical reports under AATIP."

While all sources associated with the programs confirm Gough's statement with Popular Mechanics—AAWSAP was the contract component of the broader umbrella program dubbed ATTIP—they dismiss the latter sentiment expressed by Gough that "neither AATIP nor AAWSAP were UAP related."

The evidence collected here overwhelmingly suggests the government was indeed studying UFOs and not, as the Pentagon has said, "investigating foreign advanced aerospace weapons system applications with future technology projections over the next 40 years, and to create a center of expertise on advanced aerospace technologies."

Bigelow Aerospace

The cover of BAASS's Ten Month Report, issued in July 2009.

Part III. The Report

In July 2009, BAASS provided a comprehensive report to the DIA at the conclusion of the first-year option of the AAWSAP contract. The 494-page "Ten Month Report," as it's called, is chock full of strategic plans, project summaries, data tables, charts, descriptions of biological field effects, physical characteristics, methods of detection, theoretical capabilities, witness interviews, photographs, and case synopses—each one entirely, explicitly about unexplained aerial phenomena.

Throughout the report, "the sponsor" is mentioned, however, the DIA is never explicitly named.

The first pages list the names of every contractor working for BAASS with appropriate security clearances to have access to the program. Amongst dozens of credentialed names, some of those listed are very familiar to the UFO community, including Puthoff, Davis, Jacques Vallee, and Colm Kelleher. Regardless of one's existing opinions of the UFO phenomena, the sheer volume of content in the BAASS Ten Month Report is astounding.

Some of the notable content of the 2009 BAASS Ten Month Report includes:

- Overview of the BAASS Physics Division's efforts to conduct research on advanced aerospace vehicles, including the development of standardization for measurement of physical effects and signatures associated with UAP.
- Overview of BAASS research for measuring and gleaning the effects on biological organisms from UAP.
- Mention of Skinwalker Ranch in Utah as a "possible laboratory for studying other intelligences and possible interdimensional phenomena."
- Strategic plans to organize a series of intellectual debate forums targeted to broad audiences pertaining to the "potential disclosure of an extraterrestrial presence."
- Plans to create a "medical physiological UAP effects program."
- Request for Project Blue Book files that have not been made public.
- Mention of BAASS program dubbed "Project Northern Tier," which involved securing documents related to instances where dozens of UFOs flew over restricted airspaces of facilities housing nuclear weapons.
- A possible UAP landing reported to BAASS by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and its STAR Team (rapid response field investigators funded by BAASS in March 2009).
- Project databases of UAP-related materials compiled through various partnerships, and the intent to expand these databases by coordinating with foreign governments.
- Summaries of multiple UAP events both inside the U.S. and in foreign countries.
- Photographs of UAPs provided by various sources, including foreign governments.

Bigelow Aerospace

Photograph of page 317 of the BAASS Ten Month Report.

From cover to cover, the BAASS report references the government's new buzzword for UFOs: UAP. However, nowhere could Popular Mechanics find a single reference to foreign (terrestrial) advanced aerospace weapon systems, or projected technological innovations based on current industry trends.

Sources tell Popular Mechanics the BAASS Ten Month report was only a sample of the materials the organization provided to the DIA. "Monthly reports were being sent to the Pentagon, in addition to annual program updates, that were all about UAP or anomalous phenomena," says one former BAASS contractor.

Chris Bartel, a security officer and investigator for BAASS (later Bigelow Aerospace) from 2010 to 2018, confirms the accounts of former BAASS and AATIP employees with Popular Mechanics. He says he indeed encountered some fairly dramatic paranormal events while working at the Skinwalker Ranch, and says he'd also heard mumblings of BAASS being interested in studying paranormal activity in hopes it could lead to technology research. However, Bartel says he didn't know anything about AAWSAP or AATIP until last fall. "I was a bit taken back, to say the least," he says.

Bigelow Aerospace

Photograph of page 17 of the BAASS Ten Month Report.

Though unaware of any formal contract with the DIA, Bartel confirms that reports generated about paranormal events on the ranch were being faxed to both Bigelow and the Pentagon on a regular basis. ("I would hate to think my experiences up there were somehow manipulated by outside man-made forces," Bartel says. "I truly believe the ranch to be hallowed Native land.")

Some have suggested the "paranormal" events associated with Skinwalker Ranch or AAWSAP could be associated with secret and highly advanced weapons testing. While Bartel says it's possible weapons were being tested, nothing he observed was consistent with his experiences of top secret testing.

Puthoff also says he saw no evidence that BAASS was involved in weapons testing during his tenure with the organization—"a statement I'm certain Mr. Bigelow would support," he says. (Bigelow could not be reached for comment.)

Universal History Archive//Getty Images

Jesse Marcel, who initially investigated the Roswell UFO site 1947.

Part IV. The Secrets

The revelations in the BAASS report beg the question: Why is the government now insistent it never studied UFOs, and why aren't these documents being discussed or made available through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests?

Individuals who worked on the AATIP program say the current uncertainty and confusion was by design and involved a dizzying shell game that's entirely consistent with how black budget intelligence programs are run. "What you're dealing with is the very core of government secrecy and how things they absolutely don't ever want to discuss are kept hidden away," one former AATIP contractor tells Popular Mechanics.

Sources say the key to understanding current denials of UFO studies in AATIP comes from a phrase stamped on each page of the BAASS Ten Month Report obtained by Popular Mechanics:

"The information is proprietary and cannot be disseminated or used without prior written consent from the Operating Manager of BAASS."

According to several former AATIP contractors, the "product" being produced for the DIA was technical reports on exotic and potential "game-changing" aerospace technologies, and the manner of determining what areas these radical airborne breakthroughs might emerge was through the research of UFOs.

In exchange, not only would the DIA get the agreed-upon technical reports, but it would also gain access to the extensive research BAASS was gathering on UFOs. While the DIA had access to the volumes of UFO data, the materials were actually commercial property of BAASS, as a subsidiary of Bigelow Aerospace.

The idea of using an aerospace research project as a cover for a secret UFO program may seem unscrupulous. "But this all rings very familiar," Neil Gordon,

an investigator with the Project on Government Oversight, tells Popular Mechanics.

"What you're dealing with is the very core of government secrecy and how things they absolutely don't ever want to discuss are kept hidden away." Gordon, whose area of expertise is in federal contractor misconduct, contractor accountability, and government privatization, says running the "commercial in confidence" program through AATIP is consistent with how the DoD deals with programs it wants to keep secret. "Whether it's right or not is another story," Gordon says, "but everything sounds very common for how black budget programs run."

The DIA may have had extensive access to the UFO materials, but because all of the data technically belonged to BAASS, under the Economic Espionage Act of 1996, disclosing or releasing proprietary materials provided to the government in confidence is a federal crime. Essentially, the DIA's UFO program was set up to circumvent FOIA requests and avoid having to discuss UFOs publicly.

Out of concern for providing Popular Mechanics access to the 2009 BAASS Ten Month Report, the person who made these materials available did so only under the guarantee of anonymity. It's worth noting this person is not a current government employee, nor were they involved with BAASS or the AAWSAP contract.

"Unfortunately, the government attempting to evade FOIA by contracting out its responsibilities is nothing new," Josh Burday, an attorney who specializes in FOIA and First Amendment cases, tells Popular Mechanics. "Both federal and state FOIA statutes strive to eliminate such obvious gamesmanship—avoiding transparency and disclosure obligations by contracting out functions—but whether they are successful in doing so is an entirely different story."

Davis, the astrophysicist and former AAWSAP contractor, says his work on the AATIP program was entirely consistent with all of the technological intelligence programs he'd previously worked on over the last 30-plus years. "Indeed, science is applied, but right now there's not enough data on UAP to make examining it a scientific endeavor. It's an intelligence issue, not a scientific endeavor," he says.

Puthoff, meanwhile, says BAASS produced "stacks of material to the ceiling," but because of the way things were done, he was surprised to hear any of it had become public. "To be honest, I didn't think this stuff would ever see the light of day," he says.

"To be honest, I didn't think this stuff would ever see the light of day." When reached for comment, Colm Kelleher, the former Deputy Director of BAASS, said, "I am unable to discuss this topic." Multiple other requests to Bigelow Aerospace for comment went unanswered.

The entire manner in which the DIA partnership allegedly operated raises an important question: Could the reason for the Pentagon's recent denials of AATIP or AAWSAP conducting UFO research be the result of the current DoD administration being naive to the program's underlying and commercially secret hidden purpose? It seems like a plausible theory ... if it wasn't for something else Popular Mechanics uncovered.

-//Getty Images

Part V. The Admission

Last year, Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists obtained via FOIA request and published a January 2018 letter that the DIA Congressional Relations Division sent to members of Congress. In the letter, the DIA provided "a list of all products produced under the AATIP contract for the DIA to publish." The referenced list includes 38 technical papers, called Defense Intelligence Reference Documents (DIRDs), which cover a range of advanced, exotic, and theoretical aerospace topics.

Given what's been said about the commercially confidential nature of AATIP, the phrase "for the DIA to publish" may be a critical play on words. Nevertheless, a source with access to the materials provided Popular Mechanics with a copy of a previously unreleased technical paper listed as one of AATIP's products.

While the DIA refers to the paper as "Field Effects on Biological Tissue," the original title for the submitted paper appears to actually have been "Clinical Medical Acute & Subacute Field Effects on Human Dermal & Neurological Tissues." According to the study's introduction, the paper is an examination of "clinical medical signs and symptoms and biophysics of injury known and expected from near-field (mostly ultra-high), NIEMR Microwave, Thermal, from unintended exposure to anomalous systems."

You can read the entire study below.

[View full post on IFrame](#)

In light of the cumbersome clinical language, just a cursory scan reveals the entire focus was on examining injuries that may have occurred after contact with UFOs or UAP. In fact, the very term "UFO" appears 16 times in the report; the word "anomalous" is used 27 times (most often with the word "aircraft," "aviation," or "aerospace" immediately following); and the phrase "Advanced Aerospace Systems Applications Program" is mentioned in bold on four occasions.

Popular Mechanics spoke with the study's author, Christopher "Kit" Green, a forensic clinician and neuroscientist. Green was surprised to learn his research paper had become publicly known, because he was under the impression it was never included in the distributed set, nor was it finally peer-reviewed.

Green confirms his paper wasn't cited correctly in the letter to Congress, however, he says the 54-page document Popular Mechanics obtained appeared to be the same paper he was requested to provide as a product of AAWSAP.

"This focused on forensically assessing accounts of injuries that could have resulted from claimed encounters with UAP," says Green. "I didn't work for BAASS, other than as a contractor for my paper, and I wasn't a part of AAWSAP. However, it is my understanding this program was a UFO study that outwardly was not supposed to look like it had anything to do with UFOs."

"This program was a UFO study that outwardly was not supposed to look like it had anything to do with UFOs."

Green cautions some past speculations about his paper were inaccurate, including the claims it was an effort to understand or reverse-engineer UAP technology. Green also stresses that while his work focused on encounters with unknown or unidentified aerial objects, all of the injuries he assessed could be accounted for by known terrestrial means, and did not provide any evidence for extraterrestrial or non-human technologies.

Could the 38 technical reports BAASS produced for AATIP represent what it determined accounted for UAP?

"Many of the topics could be called 'dual-use' given that, say, papers on advanced plasma propulsion and invisibility cloaking could apply to our own advanced aerospace development as well as possibly some UAPs," says Puthoff. But his "spacetime metric engineering paper, the warp drive and wormhole papers, and specifically the Statistical Drake Equation paper are essentially applicable only to UAPs."

[A Timeline of UFO Programs](#)

[Timeline of UFO Programs](#)

[Open Gallery](#)

Davis, who worked with Puthoff and authored four of the DIRDs, offers a particularly intriguing detail about the DIA's 38 reference papers.

"This wasn't focused on whether or not [UAP] are real. It's already been well

established that UAP are real by a preponderance of evidence. Some classified and some proprietary [that] I can't talk about," he says.

Instead of investigating if UAP are real, the 38 technical papers for the AAWSAP contract were also an intelligence assessment to measure just how far advanced UAP could be from current and projected scientific understandings. "Me, Hal [Puthoff], and an aerospace executive who had access to materials worked on that assessment for the DIA," Davis says.

Ultimately, aside from the wealth of BAASS proprietary evidence, Green's study alone—which the DIA told Congress was a product of AATIP that it would "be happy to provide upon direct request"—seems to completely dispute the Pentagon's recent claims that neither AATIP or AAWSAP were related to UFOs.

In an exchange of emails between Gough, the Pentagon spokesperson, and Swedish research Roger Glassal, which were provided and published by research analyst Keith Basterfield, Gough said AAWSAP commenced in the fiscal year (FY) 2008 with a designated \$10 million dollars of funding. Since the bid solicitation wasn't issued until August 2008, we now know that Gough was mistaken, and the program actually began in FY2009, which began October 1, 2008.

In the same email exchange, Gough indicated the first 26 technical reports were completed in late 2009 and an additional \$12 million dollars was designated in the FY2010 Defense Appropriations Act for 12 additional reports. (Editor's note: In the original email, Gough indicated "late 2008." It's assumed this was also said in error since BAASS didn't receive the AAWSAP contract until September 2008 and Green's technical paper is dated May 2009.)

From Gough:

"After an OSD/DIA review in late 2009, it was determined the reports were of limited value to DIA and there was a recommendation that upon completion of the contract the project could be transited to an agency or component better suited to oversee it.

Funding for the program at the DIA ended in 2012 and DoD elected not to continue the program after the work contracted under the FY2010 NDAA was completed."

Indeed, every source Popular Mechanics spoke to for this story agrees the partnership between BAASS and AAWSAP had concluded by 2012.

But here's where things get messy: Gough says when DIA funding dried up in 2012, the overarching AATIP program closed up shop as well. Every source we spoke to, however, says not only did AATIP not end in 2012, but the program is still ongoing to this day.

Core to the contention of whether or not the government maintained an interest after 2012 is the man the DoD says "had no responsibilities" with AAWSAP or AATIP: former senior Pentagon intelligence executive Luis Elizondo.

Who, exactly, is Elizondo? A patriotic whistleblower putting his reputation at stake for something he says the American public must know about? Or a huckster using his former position for his own benefit, as the Pentagon seemingly implies?

Courtesy Luis Elizondo

Left: Luis Elizondo in South Korea in 1996. Right: Elizondo in Kandhar in late 2001.

Part VI. The Leader

After serving a stint as a counterintelligence agent for the U.S. Army, in the late 1990s, Elizondo would be recruited into the ranks of the enigmatic U.S. intelligence community.

Elizondo's first stop as an intelligence operations specialist was running counterinsurgency and counternarcotics operations in Latin America. "We dealt with a lot of stuff, like coup d'états, black market terrorism, violent drug

cartels, all that kind of stuff," Elizondo says.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Elizondo was then redirected toward East Asia, where he served an advisor of a small intelligence unit assigned to support General James Mattis during his command of Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Task Force 58 (TF-58) in the War on Terrorism. In a case study published by the Naval War College in 2016, Lt. Col. Damian Spooner describes the analysis and products produced by intelligence sections under Gen. Mattis as being "indispensable" in driving TF-58 planning and operations.

Later, while continuing to support the U.S.-led war on terrorism, Elizondo, the son of a Cuban exile, found himself in Cuba dealing with some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world at Guantanamo Bay's infamous "Camp Seven," the prison constructed for the sole purpose of housing 14 "high-value detainees."

In early 2008, James Clapper, then the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, asked Elizondo to come to the Pentagon to help coordinate information sharing and partnership engagement being run by the Secretary of Defense's Office. Though the promise of cutting his daily commute in half was one of the biggest selling points, Elizondo's decision to set up shop at the Pentagon would end up putting him directly in the path of recruitment for a special program the DIA had just started running: AAWSAP.

Though the BAASS Ten Month Report includes an abundance of UAP information, nothing within the text contains any data or information provided by the U.S. government. Conversely, there are a number of requests made by BAASS for access to specific UAP information being held within the DoD and other U.S. agencies. Sources say this is key to understanding how Elizondo entered the picture.

"If they [BAASS] wanted access to info that I'm not saying does exist, but it might have been highly classified, you need someone who had the tickets to make sure the contractors weren't actually looking at Special Access Program (SAP) stuff thinking it was UFOs," says an intelligence official who is not authorized to speak on the record.

"Plus," the official tells Popular Mechanics, "I'm not saying it was, but they might have been looking into something that was of significant interest to foreign advisories and a high-value target for espionage. Bottom line, you needed a counterintel guy."

Elizondo tells Popular Mechanics that he never wanted to be a part of AATIP. However, as a senior official at OUSDI with a background in counterintelligence, he found himself being recruited into the ongoing UFO effort.

"In 2008," Elizondo says, "two guys came by my office and said, 'Are you Lue Elizondo?' The first thing I thought was, 'Oh no, what did I do?' They told me, 'You came highly recommended as a former senior CI guy with some background in advanced avionics.' Which is true—I worked some on the Open Skies Treaty. I worked with Raytheon, Boeing, and some other stuff. That was my portfolio."

Elizondo was told AATIP needed a counterintelligence support and security guy for a very special program. Within a month, after a series of meetings, Elizondo finally met with the then-director of AATIP, who asked him what seemed like a strange question at the time:

"What do you think about UFOs?"

Elizondo was flummoxed. "I was like, 'What the hell?' I thought it was a test or something. So I told the truth: I don't. I don't think about UFOs. I don't know if they're real or not. I don't think about them. I'm too busy trying to catch terrorists and bad guys."

Elizondo's ambivalence was evidently exactly what those running the program wanted to hear. Soon enough, Elizondo joined AATIP. "Seriously, for awhile, I

still didn't know if it was a test," he says. "It wasn't until I started examining the security posture of the portfolio that I suddenly realized these things are really unidentified."

Department of Defense

One of Elizondo's performance evaluations.

Not long after Elizondo was on board, in June 2009, Sen. Harry Reid submitted a letter to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn III requesting AATIP be granted restricted SAP status. Though ultimately denied, had Reid's request been granted, it would have further tightened security and secrecy around AATIP.

Last year, KLAS Las Vegas reporter George Knapp published Reid's letter showing Elizondo's name on the list of "preliminary government personnel" who would have had access to AATIP. In addition to Elizondo, Reid, and the late Senator Daniel Inouye, seven other names of government employees (which have not been released) would have had access to the proposed AATIP SAP. Notably, only three "contractor personnel" made the cut.

According to a source with knowledge of the letter, the three contractor personnel Reid wanted to grant preliminary access to were Bigelow, Kelleher, and Puthoff. Puthoff confirms with Popular Mechanics that he was one of the three approved contractors on the list. The Pentagon later confirmed the letter published by Knapp was authentic.

Sources say the limited number of contractors listed with access is yet another breadcrumb left on the trail of secrecy showing AATIP was indeed slightly different from the AAWSAP contract.

According to multiple sources, including individuals working within the Pentagon—and confirmed by Elizondo—in 2010, when the DIA cut off funding for AATIP's contract, a DIA program manager asked Elizondo if he would keep the UFO project running. "I wasn't a DIA employee," Elizondo says, "so I'd have to run it wearing my OSD hat at the Pentagon. We all agreed this was the best thing to do, so that's what we did."

By all accounts, Elizondo was now "bootstrapping" AATIP from the OUSDI, meaning he added the program to the list of his existing intelligence portfolios.

Popular Mechanics has learned the post-BAASS era of AATIP was an even more closely guarded program and consistent with how highly classified intelligence projects are conducted.

"Ninety percent of people don't understand how the general government runs, and even less understand the intelligence community," a former senior Special Operations and Intelligence Officer tells Popular Mechanics. "Because this program would have now been out of the Front Office, your guy [Elizondo] would have had the ability to muster up people from various areas of the Intelligence Community. You would have wanted to include the least possible, but best people for the specific mission. You could have had people from the DIA, ONI [Office of Naval Intelligence], and OSI [Office of Special Investigations] all working separately, but together on the same mission."

Elizondo says when he took over the AATIP, he ran it like a traditional government effort. "We greatly reduced the number of contractors to just what we might have needed, but this was going to be government to government, looking on government systems at government data," he says.

According to Elizondo, unlike most of the BAASS personnel, the post-2012 AATIP crew did have access to highly classified government information to adequately assess the situation. While the Pentagon denies that AATIP continued after 2012, Elizondo says the post-BAASS AATIP was not unsanctioned, and not just a group of government UFO enthusiasts. "Very, very few people in the building knew what we were doing, but the Front Office (Office of the Secretary of Defense) was in the loop," he says.

Popular Mechanics has learned the ONI was one of the major backers that wanted to see AATIP continued, which sources say is why the Navy has been so willing to take the most public lead on the UAP issue today.

Elizondo's critics have repeatedly asked an important question: If AATIP was such a secret program, why is Elizondo now talking about it publicly?

By denying AATIP SAP status back in 2009 and not ever officially blanketing it under a security classification, Popular Mechanics has learned that the government effectively allowed for the program itself to now be discussed.

"There's a lot they can't talk about, like sources, methods, etc., but the program itself is unclassified and fair game for public disclosure," a source with knowledge of the program tells Popular Mechanics. Elizondo confirms this is correct. "I've never once violated, nor am I willing to violate my security oaths, so anything I've discussed is indeed unclassified," he says.

In one of Elizondo's employee performance evaluations, which Popular Mechanics obtained, it lists his primary "mission goals" as managing and administering information, access controls, and security of national-level SAPs for the Secretary of Defense. Elizondo confirms his position allowed him access to the most highly secretive and reclusive programs being run by the U.S. "The stuff we were seeing was truly unidentified. It wasn't related to anything we were doing," he says.

In October 2017, Elizondo resigned from the DoD to join former Blink-182 frontman Tom DeLonge's UFO research group To the Stars Academy of Arts & Science, which would soon release the Navy's "Flir1" video to the world and properly kick off a ufological renaissance. Elizondo now works as the company's Director of Global Security and Special Programs.

Why did Elizondo leave his government job? Because he realized the Pentagon's top brass would never treat UAP with the importance they deserved. A senior Pentagon official tells Popular Mechanics they were aware that Elizondo briefed a White House intelligence aide and two senior aides to Mattis, then the Secretary of Defense, in the spring of 2017.

The official, who is not authorized to speak on the record, says the White House aide was uncomfortable with the prospect of UFOs being real. To their knowledge, the White House aide did not pass the information along. The aides to Mattis, meanwhile, acknowledged UFOs were a real issue, but they were concerned with the political optics should it ever come out that the Secretary of Defense had been briefed about them. Elizondo confirms the accuracy of these accounts. "I resigned only after multiple attempts to brief the Secretary [of Defense] failed," he previously told Popular Mechanics.

Finally, while the Pentagon has denied AATIP's existence after 2012 and that Elizondo was never involved in looking into UFOs, Popular Mechanics has obtained documentation that seems to unambiguously show AATIP was active after the closing of the BAASS AAWSAP contract, Elizondo was running this extension of AATIP, and the efforts to examine UFOs are still currently underway.

Anonymous

Though the documents were unclassified, they contained sensitive information, and the person sharing them did so only under the guarantee that Popular Mechanics would not make them publicly available. The person said they only were willing to share the materials to support Elizondo's claims, which they say have been unfairly challenged over the last two years. The individual, who is not a government employee, did approve the release of a small section from one of the documents showing the changing of responsibilities before Elizondo left the DoD.

Dane Wiedmann/DVIDS

F-35Bs begin night flights on HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Part VII. The Unknown

In June 2019, the Office of Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee's office, confirmed that closed door meetings on UAP have occurred. More recently, last December, when asked by Conway Daily Sun reporter Daymond Steer about the Navy UAP encounters, recent presidential candidate and current member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Sen. Michael Bennet, was cautious in saying he wouldn't share anything he'd learned on the Intelligence Committee. However, Bennet said, "Our guys are seeing stuff that's unidentified. They don't know what it is, I don't know what it is ... We're trying to learn more about it. The Air Force is trying to learn more about it."

Popular Mechanics has since learned in October 2019, staffers with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Armed Service Committee were briefed on current UAP issues. According to people with knowledge of these briefings, some former BAASS contractors and current AATIP leadership were in attendance.

Insiders also say this past year, during a closed-door meeting with the Senate Intelligence Committee, Brigadier General Richard Stapp, Director of the DoD Special Access Program Central Office, testified the mysterious objects being encountered by the military were not related to secret U.S. technology. The Pentagon did not respond to requests by Popular Mechanics to confirm Stapp's testimony before the Intelligence Committee.

In only the second time publicly discussing the event, Popular Mechanics spoke with the Navy fighter pilot who was Cdr. David Fravor's wingman during the now-famous 2004 Nimitz UFO encounter. Agreeing to talk only under the condition of anonymity, the fighter pilot confirmed they testified in front of congressional leadership about their encounter. "I've been requested repeatedly to go to the Pentagon and asked, 'Is this what you saw?'"

During a series of email exchanges, Popular Mechanics provided specific information to Gough, the Pentagon spokesperson, in an effort to see if this might influence the DoD's current position. Initially, Gough said she would examine the information and see if she could provide a statement in response. However, Gough has not responded to repeated follow-up requests from Popular Mechanics.

"It would be hard to argue that either the military or the public got their money's worth."

On its own, the evidence showing the Pentagon is interested in UFOs is unlikely to change the minds of many who are skeptical of the idea that mysterious, apparently intelligent, and possibly otherworldly objects might be buzzing around the skies above Earth.

"The whole contracting process for this program was irregular from start to finish," Steven Aftergood, Director for the Federation of American Scientists Project on Government Secrecy, tells Popular Mechanics. "[The AAWSAP contract] sounds like it was a good deal for the contractor. But it would be hard to argue that either the military or the public got their money's worth."

Meanwhile, William Culbreth, an engineering professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas who authored two of the 38 technical papers provided in the AAWSAP contract, offers a different opinion. He says he was unaware of the UFO background of AAWSAP, but very familiar with BAASS's UFO interest.

"I had some graduate students who worked for BAASS during that time and I know Bigelow has an interest in the topic, but no one mentioned anything about UFOs when they asked me to write the papers," Culbreth says.

Regardless of where the underlying motivation may have come from, Culbreth says his work on the two papers—"Detection and High Resolution Tracking of Vehicles at Hypersonic Velocities" and "Aneutronic Fusion Propulsion II"—led to his

examination of new approaches to nuclear propulsion technology, which might not have been inspired otherwise.

"We're looking into these propulsion technologies today, and this area alone led to several of my students pursuing PhDs who I don't think otherwise would have," Culbreth says.

With the wealth of data collected by BAASS, and almost assuredly more information being gathered by AATIP, it raises the question: Is the UAP issue being closely guarded because we don't believe it's real, or because we're afraid we can't understand it?

Mick West, the author of *Escaping the Rabbit Hole: How to Debunk Conspiracy Theories Using Facts, Logic, and Respect*, suggests the public availability and confirmation of rigorous empirical studies by AATIP could change the entire UFO dynamic. "It would be fantastic if there was some good evidence of something new to science. So far there isn't," he tells *Popular Mechanics*.

While he faces considerable angst for trying to debunk UFOs, West says he'd be as thrilled as anyone else if he was able to actually come across something that was truly unexplainable and unknown. "There's no hard feelings," he says. "I understand people are passionate—especially experiencers."

Related Stories

[The Navy Says Those UFO Videos Are Real](#)

[The Air Force's Project Blue Book, 50 Years Later](#)

[Ufology: From Fringe Field to Serious Science](#)

So was this a matter of the government discovering something it didn't understand, and therefore opting to avoid it altogether? Nick Cook, the former aviation editor of *Jane's Defense Weekly* and author of *The Grid*, tells *Popular Mechanics* this idea reminds him of a conversation he had with Ben Rich, the former director of Lockheed Skunkworks and the "father of stealth."

Cook says Rich told him when the ability for stealth aircraft was discovered, but not yet understood, there was considerable debate on what to do next. "Do you put a bunch of money into developing something and end up not being successful because you don't understand it, or do you table the entire idea until you have more science, which runs the risk of someone else figuring it out first?"

Essential UFO Reading

[Inside The Black Vault: The Government's UFO Secrets Revealed](#)

[Inside The Black Vault: The Government's UFO Secrets Revealed](#)

Now 23% Off

\$16 \$12 at Amazon

Credit: Amazon

[The UFO People: A Curious Culture](#)

[The UFO People: A Curious Culture](#)

\$11 at Amazon

Credit: Amazon

[American Cosmic: UFOs, Religion, Technology](#)

[American Cosmic: UFOs, Religion, Technology](#)

\$27 at Amazon

Credit: Amazon

[The Hunt for Zero Point: Inside the Classified World of Antigravity Technology](#)

[The Hunt for Zero Point: Inside the Classified World of Antigravity Technology](#)

\$16 at Amazon

With stealth technology, the U.S. military ultimately made the decision to move forward, which led to the development of the world's first stealth aircraft, the F-117 Nighthawk. "I guess it would depend on how wide a knowledge gap you thought there was and how high was the risk for success," Cook says. "Could I

see how something could come up, and the decision would be made to tuck something away like the final scene of Raiders of the Lost Ark? Yes, I could see how it could be possible."

"Throughout history, many inventions have preceded an understanding of the science that makes them work," Matthew Hersch, a history of science and technology professor at Harvard University, tells Popular Mechanics. "Engineers often 'do science' in the course of their work, just as scientists 'invent.' It's inevitable that we as a species will continue inventing things without a real understanding of how they work, at least until our science catches up."

Being unable to explain something with current science, Hersch says, is merely an invitation to do more science—not a rejection of the scientific worldview as a whole. "Suppressing good, non-fraudulent science because it challenges our beliefs is extremely dangerous," he says. "Nobody has a right to do that, and it is contrary to the interests of humanity—that's what science is for. Fortunately, there is no vast scientific conspiracy to suppress divergent ideas. More often, good science is suppressed by non-scientists for political reasons."

Any discovery of extraterrestrial science or technology, then, is no reason to flush our political norms down the toilet, says Hersch.

"Human beings have believed in the existence of extraterrestrial life for millennia," he says. "I suspect that any revelation that [UFOs] exist would be met with something close to a shrug."

Headshot of Tim McMillan

Tim McMillan

Tim McMillan is a retired police Lieutenant and intelligence analyst from Savannah, Georgia. To satisfy his love for solving mysteries, Tim now works as an investigative journalist—examining any question worth answering.

Watch Next

Play Icontext, font, architecture,

Readers Also Read

statue of liberty toppled by waves

Russia's New Weapon Could Decimate Coastal Cities

shanghai, china december 27: a launching ceremony is held to unveil china's first type 076 new generation amphibious assault ship, the sichuan, at hudong zhonghua shipbuilding, a shanghai based subsidiary of china state shipbuilding corp, on december 27, 2024 in shanghai, china. named after southwest china's sichuan province, the independently developed new vessel was put into the water at a launch and naming ceremony. (photo by pu haiyang/vcg via getty images)
China's Mini Aircraft Carrier Is Truly Innovative

collage design of lou and other drawings

The Truth Is Out There. So Is Lue Elizondo.

giant ufo in body of water with a ship in the foreground and the moon and two fighter jets in the sky

Ex-Navy Official: UFOs Are Hiding in Our Oceans

a plane crashed into the pentagon

Myths About the 9/11 Pentagon Attack: Debunked

a reconstructed scene of the assassination attempt at the...

Corpses Found Under Hitler's Lair

911 myths the world trade center banner

Debunking the 9/11 Myths: The World Trade Center

ufo emerging from ocean waves

Are Underwater UFOs Legitimate Threats?

launch of a combat missile from the ground against the sunset clouds of smoke and a trail of fire

The U.S. Wants Ukraine's New 'Junkyard' Missile

military tanks displayed during a parade

China's New Tank Is Among the World's Most Advanced

ngad fighter rendering showing a white plane body with a bat shaped window on the cockpit. an american flag is in the background hanging from the top of the hangar. white smoke is all around the plane.

How Tech Bros Almost Killed America's New Fighter

dedication of the tower of voices at the the flight 93 national memorial

We Debunked the 9/11 Myths About United Flight 93

Logo

x

tiktok

youtube

facebook

instagram

pinterest

Newsletter

About Us

Media Kit

Writer Guidelines

Press Room

Contact Us

Community Guidelines

Advertise Online

Customer Service

Subscribe

Other Hearst Subscriptions

Digital Issues

PopMech Pro Membership Perks

Hearst Men's and Enthusiast Media Group - A Part of Hearst Digital Media

A Part of Hearst Digital Media

We may earn commission from links on this page, but we only recommend products we back.

©2025 Hearst Magazine Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Privacy NoticeCA Notice at CollectionYour CA Privacy Rights/Shine the LightDAA Industry Opt OutTerms of UseSite Map

Opt-Out IconYour Privacy Choices: Opt Out of Sale/Targeted Ads

The Debrief

Garry Reid

Sex, Lies, and UFOs: Pentagon's Head of Counterintelligence and Security Ousted Tim McMillan·April 14, 2022

Pentagon

Former Director for Defense Intelligence Garry Reid (Image Source: DoD)

As the Pentagon's Director for Defense Intelligence and a senior executive in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security OUSD(I&S), Garry Reid was in charge of all counterintelligence, security, and law enforcement operations within the Department of Defense.

This, in addition to heading up the Afghanistan Crisis Action Group, the office tasked with evacuating Afghan refugees during America's withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Now, in an exclusive, The Debrief has learned that Reid was recently dismissed

from his responsibilities within the U.S. government.

Before his ousting as Director of Defense Intelligence, Reid had been the subject of a nearly two-year-long investigation by The Debrief. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, multiple current and former Pentagon employees told The Debrief Reid had engaged in wide-ranging misconduct and corruption for years.

In the past four years, the DoD's Inspector General's Office had investigated Reid on numerous allegations, including maintaining a sexual relationship with a subordinate employee, sexual harassment, and fostering a hostile work environment.

In 2020, the IG Office found that Reid had violated Joint Ethics Regulations by creating an appearance of an inappropriate relationship or preferential treatment with a female subordinate and mishandling of Controlled Unclassified Information.

In May 2021, Reid was named in yet another formal IG complaint, this time involving former Director of National Programs Special Management Staff at OUSD(I&S), Luis Elizondo.

In his complaint, Elizondo accused Reid of playing a central role in obfuscating information regarding the Pentagon's intriguing newfound interest in "unidentified aerial phenomena," more commonly known as UFOs. Reid was also accused of maliciously misleading the public about Elizondo's involvement with the DoD's quasi-secret UFO program, the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP).

It's not entirely clear what led to Reid's recent dismissal. However, multiple defense officials familiar with the situation told The Debrief they believed the weight of the numerous past allegations, the disastrous withdrawal of refugees from Afghanistan, and current investigations into misconduct were too significant, and ultimately led to his dismissal.

In an email, Senior Spokesperson for the Department of Defense's Public Affairs Office, Susan Gough, did not refute that Reid had been dismissed. However, the DoD declined to provide any further comment on the matter at this time.

Pentagon

Sex...

According to a "Report of Investigation" obtained by The Debrief via the Freedom of Information Act, in late 2019, Reid was investigated by the DoD's Inspector General's Office regarding four separate complaints of him having sexual affairs with subordinate employees, sexual harassment and creating a "negative work environment."

Two of the complaints accused Reid of having a sexual affair and providing preferential treatment to a female subordinate, identified in the report as "Employee 1."

Various witnesses told IG investigators they had observed Reid and Employee 1 engaging in questionable behavior, including kissing, hugging, and close personal interactions. "They definitely stand closer to each other than I would stand next to any of my [colleagues]," one witness told investigators.

In 2018 and 2019, Reid and Employee 1 took personal trips out of town together on at least two occasions. During a third official trip to Europe in 2018, investigators said Reid and Employee 1 took two days of personal leave to go "sightseeing."

Daily lunches between Reid and Employee 1 also raised eyebrows among co-workers.

According to witnesses, Reid and Employee 1 frequently enjoyed office lunches

together, with some accounts saying the door to Reid's office was often seen closed. Several witnesses also described the lunchtime powwows as "very weird."

"[There were] two place settings, like ... a restaurant" complete with "salt and pepper shakers, a side table, and some sparkling water," witnesses were quoted saying.

IG investigators determined that for more than a year, Reid and Employee 1 regularly commuted to work and went to the gym together. One witness described the couple's carpooling as "odd."

"He's the boss, and she's a subordinate," said one witness. "[I have] never seen that type of relationship between a supervisor and subordinate."

Out of twenty witnesses interviewed by IG investigators, only three said Reid and Employee 1's relationship was "solely professional." The remaining witnesses described the couple as "close," "very close," "perceived close," or "inappropriately close." Several witnesses told investigators the relationship between Reid and Employee 1 made them feel "awkward."

Then-Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Kari Bingen told IG investigators she had heard "rumors" that Reid and Employee 1 spent a lot of time together and had even raised the issue with him sometime in 2019. According to the report, Reid told Bingen he was merely "mentoring" Employee 1.

Independent investigation by The Debrief revealed the perception that Reid and Employee 1 were involved in an inappropriate relationship extended far beyond just the offices in OUSD(I&S).

Former senior officials who worked directly for former Secretary of Defense James Mattis and in the White House during the Trump administration told The Debrief it was "common knowledge" that Reid and Employee 1 were involved in an inappropriate, assumed romantic relationship.

One official who worked within the Office of the Secretary of Defense said they had heard a rumor that Reid and Employee 1 had been caught engaging in some type of sexual activity in the Pentagon parking lot. The official, who still works for the Department of Defense, reiterated this was only a rumor

During interviews, both Reid and Employee 1 denied allegations of being in a sexual affair, both describing their relationship instead as merely a very close friendship.

Employee 1 told IG investigators that she referred to herself as the "[Reid] whisperer and [Reid] interpreter" because "people bring things to me first, and they make me deliver the bad news," which is "kind of my role." For his part, Reid described his interactions with Employee 1 as being akin to a mentor and mentee.

Both Reid and Employee 1 admitted that on occasion, they may have kissed on the cheek or briefly hugged each other, but in a strictly platonic manner. Employee 1 told investigators that all of the kisses she received from Reid were "never uncomfortable" and didn't "feel aggressive or inappropriate or meaningful."

Reid denied providing preferential treatment, saying any added responsibilities or inclusion on travel trips outside of Employee 1's scope of employment were part of his mentorship. Reid said this was done based on guidance by Deputy Undersecretary Bingen to "build up a bench" as part of talent management efforts by the DoD.

Though unmentioned in the IG report, The Debrief learned in its independent investigation that Employee 1 was promoted to a high-level executive position with OUSDI.

Ultimately, the IG Office concluded that Reid had violated DoD Joint Ethics Regulations by "establishing and maintaining a close and unduly familiar relationship with Employee 1, creating a widespread perception of an inappropriate relationship and favoritism."

In a rebuttal to the IG Office's conclusions, Reid said his frequent interactions with Employee 1 were due to an administrative reorganization in February 2019.

Short of flatly accusing Reid of lying, IG investigators said his statements "minimized his interactions" with Employee 1 by failing to highlight they had taken personal out-of-town trips and were commuting, eating lunch, and attending the gym together daily, in at least 2018.

While there was considerable circumstantial evidence, the IG's Office ultimately said they could not substantiate that Reid and Employee 1 were engaged in a "sexual affair." Investigators, however, noted they uncovered "many instances of conduct by Mr. Reid and her that were unduly personal and not professional or performance-related."

The report's authors underscored their conclusion by highlighting that Reid kissed Employee 1 on at least one occasion in her office and "routinely in the morning and evening hours during their commute together."

Pentagon

Lies...

In 2020 the DoD Inspector General's Office investigated Reid regarding another allegation that he was involved in an inappropriate sexual affair with a subordinate female co-worker, identified in reports as "Employee 2."

The dynamics of the IG's investigation quickly changed when Employee 2 denied that she had been in a sexual relationship with Reid, instead claiming she had been the victim of repeated sexual harassment.

According to the IG's report, Reid had "kissed and hugged" Employee 2 in the workplace on multiple occasions, something Employee 2 said made her "uncomfortable" and was "unwelcome and inappropriate."

Employee 2 said Reid kissed and hugged her "always in the context of some goodbye" or after a heated exchange as a "let's make up [and] let's hug it out."

During hugs, Employee 2 said she would always try to turn her head away because Reid "would try to kiss her on the 'cheek or closer.'" Employee 2 said Reid would kiss her on the "mouth, side of the mouth, or cheek, depending on how quickly she could move her head."

Employee 2 admitted she had never confronted Reid, who was her supervisor, about the unwanted interactions out of fear of the consequences.

"If you tell Reid, 'I'm really not comfortable with that, that's really inappropriate,' then you have Hell to pay. Your life is miserable. And it just wasn't worth it. So you put up with it," Employee 2 was quoted.

"I just felt like this is a real crappy thing that I have to put up with. ... So, I don't, I mean, it's not like I was like, 'Oh my God, I've been violated. I need to call the sexual assault helpline,'" said Employee 2 when asked how the kisses and hugs made her feel.

"Like, I'm so conditioned to just deal with it. [It] sucks that women have to put up with this, and I'm one of them, and it's just part of doing business."

Ironically, Employee 1 from the first IG complaint told investigators she had witnessed Reid "kiss Employee 2 occasionally," but that it did not "make an

impression on [her] as anything concerning or noteworthy."

When confronted with the allegations, Reid told investigators that he had "never sexually harassed anybody, male or female." Reid did not deny, however, that he occasionally hugged or kissed Employee 2, but only on the cheek. Reid said Employee 2 never told him his kisses were unwelcome or gave a "negative response."

"I sit here watching TV with Harvey Weinstein and everything else going on here, and again I'm still in shock that you came in here, and you told me of all the things you included, that I sexually harrassed [Employee 2]," said Reid. "But I did nothing of the sort and did everything to the contrary to help her, and she agreed with the help, and she would be the first to tell you I helped her."

Reid went on to say he thought perhaps Employee 2's allegations of sexual harassment were out of "revenge and retaliation" because he did not support her career advancement. "She took that very negatively -- that [I] didn't have her back."

During their investigation into the sexual harassment allegations, IG investigators said they examined text messages and emails between Reid and Employee 2. Investigators said messages showed Employee 2 "frequently engaging Reid in common interest conversations" and seemed to show "support for his work."

In light of Reid admitting to on occasion kissing or hugging Employee 2, the IG office concluded: "Considering the totality of the relationship between Mr. Reid and Employee 2, we did not find sufficient evidence to determine that Mr. Reid's conduct toward Employee 2 constituted sexual harassment or some other form of misconduct."

The Debrief was able to speak with a female former Pentagon official who was familiar with the IG's 2020 investigation into Reid for sexual misconduct and harassment. The former official requested anonymity out of concern for reprisal. The Debrief verified the former official was indeed in a position to comprehensively understand the workplace dynamics in OUSDI under Reid's leadership.

According to the former official, Reid's inappropriate behavior towards female employees was apparent and widely known amongst the staff at OUSDI. "He was extremely arrogant. It didn't matter who was around, senior civilian staff, attorneys, military officials. It didn't matter. He would still do completely inappropriate things."

The career female defense official said she understood why "Employee 2" in the IG investigation didn't initially report Reid's behavior, and it only came to light due to another allegation of misconduct.

"As a woman working in the Pentagon, which is still largely a boy's club, when you see someone like Reid blatantly behaving like he did, you say, 'Why bother?' Why speak out because all that is going to happen is you're going to be penalized, but nothing will happen to someone like Reid. So you just accept it's not worth it."

"And look what happened," the former female defense official added. "Nothing was done about him sexually harassing one co-worker [Employee 2], while the other co-worker [Employee 1] he was having an affair with got promoted into a senior position. What kind of message does that send?"

Another current female defense official who was not working in the Pentagon during the IG's initial investigation, but whose current position put her in contact with Reid and OUSD(I&S) told The Debrief that she would like to hope things are changing for the better. However, evidence often suggests otherwise.

"Let's be honest here. He [Reid] didn't get run off until he screwed up Afghanistan and a man [Elizondo] filed an IG complaint," said the current female Defense official.

"As a woman, personally I look at his behavior and think he's a pig," the current female Defense official added. "Professionally, I'd consider him a huge CI [counterintelligence] risk. If I'm a foreign adversary, I realize all I need to do to compromise this guy is wave a skirt in front of him. It's kind of remarkable he was the head of counterintelligence."

[Editorial Note: During its investigation, The Debrief was able to determine the identity of "Employee 2." However, the individual is no longer in public service, and their identity has therefore been withheld from this report.]

Garry Reid

Garry Reid during a Pentagon press briefing, August 16, 2021. (Image Source: DoD)

In yet another IG complaint during the 2019-2020 time frame, an anonymous co-worker accused Reid of creating a hostile and combative work environment. Of twenty-one witnesses interviewed by IG investigators, one-third gave unfavorable appraisals of Reid's leadership, describing him as "nasty," "gruff," "moody," "unpredictable," "not very communicative," or "incredibly inconsistent."

One witness said Reid could get "angry" and "downright mean" when things weren't going well, and he wanted answers.

"When he's talking to you, like he's interrogating you, [and] talking to you like you're the gum on his shoe, bottom of his shoe. Just no, even basic human respect. I mean it was like he had no time for you," said one witness. "If he was not happy with you, you knew it and felt it."

Twelve witnesses offered a slightly more favorable appraisal, saying Reid was "firm" and "blunt" but also "smart," "strategic," and "successful."

Reid's then-boss, Deputy Undersecretary for Intelligence Kari Bingen, described him as a "pit-bull as in if you give him something and he will kind of be dogged about getting it down."

Bingen admitted there had been "several, or a handful of individuals" who said it had been "really hard to work for him" during exit interviews upon leaving the Pentagon. Bingen, however, told investigators she had seen "flashes of him doing his job very well, him building relationships, [and] him getting things done effectively."

Ultimately, the Inspector General's Office said the negative comments about Reid's leadership "did not rise to the level of violations of the JER," concluding Reid had not fostered a negative work environment.

During their overall investigations in 2020, the DoD IG said they uncovered that Reid had at times used his personal email account to conduct "official DoD business." On 65 occasions, investigators found Reid had used his personal email to share Controlled Unclassified Information.

Reid claimed he had only used his personal email for "rare and extraordinary" situations but agreed, "I probably should have known better." In their final conclusion, the IG Office said Reid violated DoD policies regarding email use, highlighting his later remarks and agreeing "[He] should have known better."

Garry Reid

And UFOs...

In October 2017, the then-Director of National Programs Special Management Staff at OUSD(I&S), Luis Elizondo, resigned from the Pentagon following a lengthy career in which he had served in various senior intelligence roles.

Elizondo's reason for suddenly departing his employer of over 20 years involved UFOs, or in contemporary parlance, unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP).

Elizondo says he headed up a secretive working group within the Pentagon for over half-a-decade investigating UAP encounters by members of the U.S. military under the moniker of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP).

Elizondo's sudden October 2017 resignation was in protest after it became clear that some in Pentagon leadership were preventing senior defense officials from being briefed on these concerning UAP incidents.

In December 2017, Elizondo revealed the existence of AATIP in an expose by the New York Times. Following the feature article—which thrust Elizondo, AATIP, and UAP into the limelight—was the release of three DoD videos captured in 2004 and 2015 by the targeting cameras of F/A-18 fighter jets. The Pentagon has since begrudgingly admitted the objects seen in the videos are characterized as UAP.

In the ensuing years, Elizondo has become one of the most prominent and vocal advocates for the formal investigation of these mysterious incidents.

To their credit, the Pentagon and Congressional leadership have backed up Elizondo's most extraordinary claim: That devices of apparent intelligent control and unknown origin are flying in our skies with impunity.

Current Senators, former directors of the CIA, Office of National Intelligence, Deputy Secretaries of Defense, Naval Secretaries, Presidents of the United States, military fighter pilots, and a newly formed and congressionally mandated DoD Office specifically tasked with investigating UAP – have all substantiated Elizondo's core claims.

Perhaps unsurprising given the taboo nature of UFOs, that's not to say there hasn't been some controversy regarding Elizondo's claims.

Specific to the well-known UFO whistleblower, after initially confirming Elizondo ran AATIP since the spring of 2019, the DoD has been steadfast in claiming he had no "assigned responsibilities" in the program. In fairness, over the last 5 years, the DoD's position on AATIP or UAP has been, at best, indecisive.

According to Elizondo and several current and former defense officials that The Debrief spoke with, the Pentagon's inconsistent messaging on Elizondo's involvement in AATIP and general aversion to being open about its interest in UAP is in large part due to one person: Luis Elizondo's former boss at OUSD(I&S).

Or as one current senior Intelligence Official worded it when speaking with The Debrief, "Garry Fucking Reid."

Garry Reid

Luis Elizondo (Image Source: CBS/ 60 Minutes)

According to documents related to a May 2021 IG complaint filed by Elizondo, which was reviewed by The Debrief, shortly after resigning on October 5, 2017, Elizondo received a call from his former boss Garry Reid.

A "clearly upset" Reid wanted to know what he should do with Elizondo's resignation letter and demanded he come to see him at the Pentagon. When Elizondo declined the invitation, Reid reportedly threatened him, saying he would "tell people you are crazy, and it might impact your security clearance."

By November, Elizondo said he received several phone calls from former colleagues at OUSD(I&S) warning him that Reid and "Employee 1" (from the IG complaint) were "coming after him."

This could be written off as an apparently emotional and volatile former boss blowing off steam. However, it would seem, Reid indeed did attempt to make good on his threats.

On December 22, 2017, five days after Elizondo and AATIP made headlines in the New York Times, an investigation into Elizondo and the release of the three DoD videos depicting UAP incidents was launched by the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI).

A copy of the final report obtained by The Debrief via the Freedom of Information Act indicates AFOSI's primary task was to investigate the release of the three UAP videos under the presumption these videos were classified. The report notes the videos were classified as Secret/No Foreign.

The fact that AFOSI investigators initially thought the videos were Secret is intriguing.

The DoD has since admitted the three brief clips were never classified. Additionally, emails obtained through FOIA show that this was abundantly clear as far back as the summer of 2017, when Elizondo was trying to get the videos cleared for public release.

Given that they were indeed unclassified, Elizondo could have, at most, potentially committed an administrative violation for publicly releasing the videos before they had been cleared by the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review (DOPSR).

From the onset, had AFOSI been aware of this, they would have known that an investigation was pointless since Elizondo was no longer working for the DoD. Nevertheless, the impression that the videos were classified caused it to become a criminal matter, which allowed AFOSI to initiate the investigation.

After over four months of investigation, AFOSI arrived at the same conclusion that should have been abundantly clear from the beginning: "The three videos obtained by the SUBJECT were confirmed to be UNCLASSIFIED." Both AFOSI and the Unauthorized Disclosure Program Management Office considered the matter closed on April 13, 2018.

Copies of AFOSI's final report were forwarded for "Action" to OUSDI, acknowledging OUSDI as the office initially requesting the investigation.

The person working out of OUSDI in charge of all counterintelligence, security, and law enforcement operations for the DoD at the time had been Garry Reid.

Speaking under the condition of anonymity, a senior defense official who had firsthand knowledge of the incident told The Debrief they knew for certain that the 2017-2018 AFOSI investigation was done at the behest of Reid as a way of retaliating against Elizondo.

Reid's aim, reportedly, was to try and get Elizondo's security clearance revoked. Treating it as a counterintelligence matter only ensured increased scrutiny.

"OSI all but came back and told him [Reid] it was improper use of their resources. Based on his position, they couldn't actually say that, but if you read between the lines on the report, that's what you see."

According to the Defense official, this was far from the only act of retribution Reid took against Elizondo.

"Reid had USDI Security put an entry in Elizondo's file on Scattered Castles, which is the clearance system used for IC interagency clearance passage, so that if he tried to go to any SCIF in the IC, Reid would get a call and be able to

cause questions so that Interagency partners would come to believe there was a 'problem' and not let him in," the Defense official explained.

"This is a stealth administrative way to block someone's access without overtly putting anything out there. These types of admin dirty tricks were perpetrated by Reid against Elizondo over and over again."

Multiple former and current Defense Officials familiar with the matter told The Debrief that going after Elizondo's security clearance had been only one of the administrative dirty tricks Reid played.

Initially, when news of AATIP came to light in 2017, then-Pentagon Spokesperson Dana White acknowledged Elizondo had run the program.

By Spring of 2019, however, the DoD did an about-face, releasing the boilerplate statement that "Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI [the Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence]."

A former senior advisor to Secretary of Defense James Mattis told The Debrief they had been briefed at the Pentagon by Elizondo several times in early 2017 on UAP incidents and were dumbfounded when they saw the DoD's new "no responsibilities" position.

"I actually called PAO and said, 'How can you say that? I was read into this and [was] briefed by him [Elizondo].'" The former advisor says they never provided an adequate explanation for why the DoD was now denying Elizondo's role with the program.

Two current Defense officials told The Debrief they knew that senior leadership at the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), who at the time was managing the DoD's officially sanctioned UAP Task Force, had provided clarifying statements to the Public Affairs Office reflecting Elizondo had been the senior ranking official in the joint working group investigating UAP known as AATIP.

Documents reviewed by The Debrief show that on June 3, 2020, Elizondo emailed the DoD's newly appointed UAP public affairs czar, Susan Gough, requesting a correction to previous statements that more correctly reflected his involvement with AATIP. In the email, Elizondo provided 14 names of individuals ranging from senior Pentagon officials, private contractors, to members of Congress who could verify his involvement.

Each of Elizondo's attempts to correct the record on his former role with the AATIP program went unrecognized.

Several current and former Defense officials tell The Debrief that the DoD's steadfast denial regarding Elizondo and often inconsistent and confusing public statements on UAP can be traced back to Elizondo's last boss, Garry Reid.

After three years of attempts at clearing his name and setting the record straight, Elizondo finally filed a formal complaint with the DoD Inspector General's Office in May 2021.

In unclassified documents reviewed by The Debrief, Elizondo accused Reid of "malicious activities, coordinated disinformation, professional misconduct, whistleblower reprisal, and explicit threats."

In the cover letter to his complaint, Elizondo said, "I am fully aware of the magnitude of my allegations against certain individuals in the Department, and I am able to substantiate these claims."

Speaking with The Debrief, Elizondo said part of Reid's vendetta against and misleading statements about his involvement with AATIP are likely related to the fact he was never made aware of the program. "Since I could not trust him, I

never indoctrinated him into the program, and instead was working with echelons within the Department above him," said Elizondo.

"I was aware of his perceived misconduct and could not risk the integrity of the program by involving him. Last I heard, he was coaching Pentagon Spokesperson, Susan Gough how to respond to inquiries by the media about me. This would explain the obvious inaccuracies provided to the media about me by Ms. Gough," surmised Elizondo.

The Inspector General's Office declined to comment on Elizondo's complaint.

liquid crystal

See Also

"Previously Unseen" Phenomenon in Liquid Crystal Challenges Conventional Laws of Physics

Just before Elizondo filed his complaint, the IG's Office announced they were launching an evaluation "to determine the extent to which the DoD has taken actions regarding Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP)."

Both the investigations into Elizondo's complaint and the evaluation of the DoD's handling of UAP are still ongoing; and when it comes to the DoD's handling of UAP, once again all roads lead to Garry Reid.

Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Screenshot of purported UAP captured by US Navy F/A-18 pilots in 2015. (Image Source: The Department of Defense)

In August of 2020, the DoD officially announced the establishment of a UAP Task Force to "improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAPs."

However, copies of emails obtained by The Debrief via FOIA show that senior DoD leadership, as high as the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of the Navy, were being briefed on UAP at least a year earlier in 2019. Lawmakers on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Armed Services Committee were also receiving briefings on UAP by 2019.

And while all of these efforts in 2019-2020—including those by the UAP Task Force—were being managed by the Office of Naval Intelligence, the cognizant authority for the DoD's UAP investigations was the Defense Intelligence, Collection, and Special Programs Office at OUSD(I&S), which fell under the direct control of the Director of Defense Intelligence: Garry Reid.

So while Congress was passing legislation requesting preliminary evaluations of UAP incidents and establishing a formal UAP investigative office in the Pentagon, the principal executive overseeing these efforts was Reid.

The same Reid that multiple defense officials say has not only maintained a years-long vendetta against Elizondo but also played a central role in obstructing efforts to formally investigate purported UAP sightings going back to at least late 2017.

Notwithstanding all of this, in November 2021, when the DoD decided to get ahead of an upcoming Congressional mandate, Reid was named as the Executive Secretary of the newly formed UAP investigative office, the verbosely titled the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group (AOIMSG).

With Reid's sudden departure, the Director for Defense Intelligence (Warfighter Support) Air Force Major General Aaron Prupas will likely take over leadership of the AOIMSG, at least for the time being.

Garry Reid

Pentagon Spokesperson John Kirby, with Garry Reid in the background. August 16, 2021. (Image Source: DoD)

But Wait, There's More...

In light of having been named in multiple past IG complaints; in violation of DoD Joint Ethics Regulations; " and the subject of a still ongoing IG investigation involving allegations of "malicious activities"; miraculously, in July 2021, Reid found himself named as the Director of the DOD Crisis Action Group for Afghanistan.

In this role, Reid served as the lead DoD official overseeing the relocation of refugees and transportation of U.S. embassy staff, American citizens, allies, and other partners during the U.S.'s frantic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Horrific images of desperate Afghans clinging to the landing gear of massive C-17 cargo planes as they took to the sky would suggest that Reid's Afghanistan Crisis Action Group was a complete disaster. And the data would concur.

In a joint press conference with Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby on August 16, Reid said while working closely with the Department of State, the Crisis Action Group was focusing on relocating Special Visa Applications (SIV). "To date, nearly 2,000 Afghans have passed through this process," said Reid.

According to a February 2022 report issued by the Association of Wartime Allies, of the 81,000 SIV applicants who had pending visa applications on the day of Reid's press conference, on August 31, when the final U.S. cargo planes went wheels up, 78,000 were left behind.

Six months after America's withdrawal, AWA collected data on 10,803 of the 78,000 Afghan refugees left behind. Of those surveyed, 30% had been imprisoned by the Taliban; 88% reported loss of employment; 94% reported economic hardship; 70% said they went without food at least once in the last month; 84% reported going without medical care due to angst about leaving home and facing reprisals from the Taliban; and 77% said they had witnessed some form of physical violence against others for their service to the United States.

The State Department has disputed AWA's figure that 78,000 Afghan refugees were left behind, saying in early August 2021, there were about "18,000 SIV applicants." Both organizations agree that only 3,000 SIV applicants were ultimately evacuated by August 31.

So while the State Department's total figure of SIV applicants is considerably smaller than AWA's estimate, it still reflects the U.S. didn't get out nearly 84% of Afghan refugees.

According to some senior Defense officials, including those from the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) and Intelligence Community, Reid and Crisis Action Group out of OUSD(I&S) bear a large part of the blame for the U.S. not being able to get more refugees out of Afghanistan.

Officials tell The Debrief that all evacuation of refugees had to go through Reid's office in OUSD(I&S), which created a bureaucratic bottleneck that often brought operations to a standstill.

Frustrated that some military agencies were still doing everything they could to get refugees out as the Taliban swooped in and seized control of Kabul, Defense officials said OUSD(I&S) ordered all U.S. military helicopters grounded, with permission to fly having to be granted by them.

"JSOC folks and some other agencies were already working to get people out, but USDI and Reid suddenly came in and put everything to a halt. They repeatedly held things up, for no other reason than they just wanted to say they were in charge," one senior JSOC official speaking on the condition of anonymity told The Debrief.

"The military, JSOC, and other agencies, were getting it done. I can't overstate it enough how much USDI and Reid's group just came in and screwed things up."

The bureaucratic ineptitude of the DoD's evacuation process was so incredible that an ad hoc group of former U.S. special operators, aid workers, and intelligence officers with experience in Afghanistan banded together in what was dubbed "Task Force Pineapple" to save as many of their former Afghan allies as possible.

An Afghan SIV applicant who was ultimately left behind told AWA, "We are suffering the worst days of our life. I never go outside my living area. I have [not] left my home since the Taliban took over the country... I have lost my job furthermore, I cannot walk freely in the city/village because the Taliban will arrest me."

Garry Reid

Garry Reid during a Pentagon press briefing, August 16, 2021. (Image Source: DoD)

Unusual Problems Seem to Always Surround Reid

Since Spring of 2020, The Debrief had been investigating claims of misconduct by Reid after a current Pentagon official reached out and expressed concerns.

The individual said they knew of the past investigations, and because Reid "had friends in high places," they had little faith in the DoD's formal oversight channels. Hence their decision to turn to the media.

In examining the claims against Reid, The Debrief reached out and spoke with numerous current and former Pentagon and Intelligence officials who had either worked with or were familiar with Reid over the following nearly two years.

Of these individuals, the only remotely favorable evaluation was from one former Senior Advisor who said they "knew about rumors" of past misdeeds, including the alleged affair with Employee 1, but their interactions with Reid were always generally good.

The remaining persons The Debrief spoke with painted a picture of an arrogant and spiteful senior public official, who some seemed afraid of due to his significant power in the DoD's security and law enforcement apparatus.

Being judicious in our investigation and not mischaracterizing someone based merely on others' subjective opinions, The Debrief attempted to further evaluate several individuals' claims about Reid.

On May 18, 2020, The Debrief filed a Freedom of Information Act Request for copies of various communication records, including all of Reid's emails, calendar invites, real-time communications on government cell phones, Blackberry devices, or messages using SameTime or similar computer-based real-time messaging.

On July 27, 2020, The Debrief was informed by OSD's FOIA Office that OUSD(I&S) had replied that our "request is overly broad, unduly burdensome, and does not reasonably describe the documents being processed. Further, based on the scope and terms of your request, the component is not able to reasonably suggest an appropriate, more narrow search/request."

The Debrief was informed it had until the close of business on July 7 to clarify the scope of our request, or the matter would be closed. The cutoff date was twenty days before we were ever initially asked to clarify the request.

OUSD(I&S)'s claim that the original FOIA request was "overly broad" was odd. Initially, The Debrief's legal counsel had drafted a 19-page FOIA request that explicitly indicated what records were sought and exactly where these items could be located.

Adding to the confusion, on the same day The Debrief had filed a FOIA request for Reid's communications, it had made identical requests regarding two other senior DoD officials, one of whom worked in OUSD(I&S) for Reid. The two other

exact requests were being processed. Only the one for Reid had faced problems.

When reminded of this, OSD's FOIA Office told The Debrief to disregard the previous concern, and the records request was now being processed.

For more than a year, The Debrief didn't hear anything until October 19, 2021, when OSD's FOIA Office sent the exact same response that OUSD(I&S) claimed our response was "overly broad."

Ultimately, it is unknown why repeated problems have arisen in seeking copies of records pertaining to Garry Reid. The other two identical requests have continued to be processed without issue.

At the time of his dismissal, The Debrief was engaged in legal efforts to facilitate the release of Reid's communication records.

Pentagon

(Image Source: DoD)

"It's a HUGE Deal"

The ultimate reason for Garry Reid's dismissal from his responsibilities at the DoD remains unknown.

When The Debrief reached out to Public Affairs to clarify if Reid had been reassigned, suspended, voluntarily resigned or was terminated, the Department of Defense declined to comment. Seven current Defense officials, however, confirmed to The Debrief that Reid is no longer in his position and his Deputy, Tara Jones is currently serving as acting Director of Defense Intelligence.

Current and former Defense officials familiar with the situation said the official claimed reason for Reid's ousting remains a mystery to them as well. However, out of the Officials who spoke with The Debrief, all universally said it was likely from a combination of factors and that investigation into Lue Elizondo's formal complaint by the IG Office likely uncovered all sorts of nasty skeletons.

"Although I cannot confirm what ultimately led to his termination, I can surmise that it was caused, in part, by information contained in my IG complaint," Elizondo told The Debrief.

When asked how they felt on hearing the news, officials The Debrief spoke with said that Reid's departure as Director of Defense Intelligence was long overdue. Many also expressed surprise at his ousting.

"The guy was part of the system for a very long time. To fire him is no joke!" said one former Defense official. Another current senior Pentagon advisor said, "The guy ran all counterintelligence, security and law enforcement for the entire DoD, worldwide. This is a huge deal!"

Some who had known Reid for years expressed disappointment in the overall situation. Prior to going to work in the Pentagon in 2007, Reid had served nearly 30 years in U.S. Army Special Operations, including as the Command Sergeant Major. By all accounts, even those who spoke poorly of Reid's Pentagon behavior, said he had been a respected member of the Special Operations community. "He just lost his way when he got to the Pentagon," said one long-time JSOC official.

Assuming past allegations of misconduct and Pentagon Official's descriptions of his behavior are any indication, Reid's fall from grace will likely have an immediate positive impact on OUSD(I&S).

When it comes to former Pentagon officials turned advocates for formal scrutiny of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, they say Reid's departure will have a significant positive impact on Government's investigations into UAP.

"It's a really big deal," said Elizondo. "He was one of the biggest obstacles to the DoD's investigations and public transparency of unidentified aerial phenomena."

Given that he was on the receiving end of Reid's ire for several years, The Debrief asked Elizondo how he felt about Reid's removal as Director of Defense Intelligence.

"While I profoundly respect his past military service to our country, obviously in his later career, he forgot his promise to the American people," Elizondo said.

"This action by the Department is significant and should be taken as a warning to others in the Department who continue to obfuscate the UAP topic and deny our previous efforts and findings in the AATIP program as they relate to a legitimate potential threat to the National Security of the United States," Elizondo added.

Before publication, The Debrief sent several unanswered requests to Reid for comment.

"As I indicated before, those involved in the purposeful and deliberate obfuscation of the truth will be held accountable," added Elizondo.

"We are now seeing this process in action."

(Correction: An earlier version reported Reid was formerly the Command Sergeant Major for the Army's 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment, "Delta Force." While it is confirmed he was a Command Sergeant Major in U.S. Army Special Operations, subsequent questions arose regarding whether this was with "Delta Force." The Debrief has amended the article until this can be further verified. Additionally, it was incorrectly reported that "Employee 1" had left OUSDI for a position within the newly formed Defense Counterintelligence & Security Agency (DCSA). This should have been attributed to "Employed 2" from the DoD IG's 2019-2020 investigation.)

Tim McMillan is a retired law enforcement executive, investigative reporter and co-founder of The Debrief. His writing covers defense, national security, and the Intelligence Community. You can follow Tim on Twitter: @LtTimMcMillan. Tim can be reached by email: tim@thedebrief.org or through encrypted email: LtTimMcMillan@protonmail.com

[Previous Article](#)

[This Tech Could Provide Humans Full Color Night Vision](#)

[Next Article](#)

[Public Perception Around GMOs is Becoming More Positive, New Study Says](#)

[Related Posts](#)

[FY 2026 NDAA](#)

[White House Backs Sweeping Reforms as Congress Advances 2026 Defense](#)

[Authorization Bill](#)

[The Intelligence Brief](#)

[Pete Hegseth](#)

[Classified Report Concludes Defense Secretary's Signal Messages Were a Safety Risk to U.S. Personnel](#)

[The Intelligence Brief](#)

[ISS extremophiles consciousness UAP](#)

[Universal Consciousness Before the Big Bang, the Launch of "UAlbany Project X", and Extremophile Survival in Space](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[UAlbany Project X](#)

["UAlbany Project X": How a Team of New York Physicists is Launching a Cutting-Edge Investigation into Aerial Mysteries](#)

[Breaking NewsScienceUAP](#)

© Copyright 2025 The Debrief. All Rights Reserved.

The thoughts, views, and opinions expressed in articles on this site belong solely to the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of The Debrief, or of other groups or individuals featured on this site.

ADVERTISE

CONTACT

ABOUT

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

COPYRIGHT

PRIVACY

Send a News Tip The Intelligence Brief Get Our Newsletter

Facebook

X (Twitter)

Instagram

YouTube

TikTok

Discord

The Black Vault

E-Newsletter

Contact

Home

FOIA Documents

Paranormal Case Files

Chat

Podcast

Shop

Donate

Mysteries

Pentagon Destroyed E-mails Of Former Intelligence Official Tied To UFO

Investigation Claims

John GreenewaldBy John GreenewaldMay 27, 202123 Mins Read

Luis Elizondo speaks to the world for the first time in October of 2017. Since October of 2017, intrigue and mystery has surrounded Luis Elizondo. He is a former Department of Defense (DoD) employee who says that during his time working inside the Pentagon, he headed a secret UFO study known as the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP). His story quickly spread throughout the mainstream media garnering international attention, and people became enthralled by the idea that behind the scenes, the U.S. government was actively investigating UFOs and most likely hiding everything it knew. But despite the praise and adoration by many, Elizondo's journey of stepping into a global spotlight would not come without many challenges for him to overcome.

It would take just under two months for Elizondo to receive some push back from his former employer which challenged some of his claims. Then, about a year and a half after he went public, the Pentagon would fire a more precise shot across the bow to directly target Elizondo's integrity with what seemed to be a damning statement. They told The Intercept in June of 2019 that Elizondo had no "responsibilities" on the AATIP (this would later be amended to "no assigned responsibilities"). Armed only with official statements, but offering no supporting documentation, it appeared that the Pentagon had a concerted effort

to negate everything that Elizondo had brought forward to the public.

Continue scrolling for more...

Now, more than three and a half years after Elizondo told his extraordinary story about investigating unidentified aerial threats for the U.S. government, the saga has taken an unexpected turn. The DoD has now admitted exclusively to The Black Vault that they have destroyed some of the most crucial evidence that could either prove, or disprove, Elizondo's work history within a secret UFO study known as AATIP.

The discovery came when the DoD sent The Black Vault a "final determination" letter after three years of numerous FOIA requests and multiple appeals seeking out Elizondo's e-mails. Despite a number of those appeals being granted, and what seemed like numerous wins in an effort to finally uncover the truth, the three-year-long effort came to a dead end when the first of many remanded appeals was finally answered.

"After thorough searches of the electronic records and files of OUSD (I&S), no records of the kind you described [Elizondo e-mails containing the word "unidentified"] could be identified. Please note that e-mails of former Department of Defense (DoD) employees are not retained unless they are considered historical records and retained by the National Records Center. There are currently no existing e-mail accounts for Mr. Elizondo. We believe that search methods were appropriate and could reasonably be expected to produce the requested records if they existed."

Essentially saying the records were destroyed, The Black Vault reached out to clarify. The DoD has now confirmed nearly two months after they wrote the letter, that their final determination does equate to Elizondo's emails being destroyed with no backup available. Beyond confirmation of that, they offer no official statement explaining or expanding on the situation.

What is unclear, is whether or not the deletion of these electronic records was authorized by protocol. To delete records such as these, set procedures followed by the agency called "record retention schedules" need to have certain prerequisites met in order to delete or destroy files. However, after extensive research on these schedules, consultation with Elizondo about his work history, and a near two-month effort to get clarification from the DoD on what authorized them to do this, it appears there may be no adequate authorization that can be cited for this destruction to have taken place.

Although The Black Vault aimed to have a published explanation from the DoD for this article, a near two-month attempt to do that, failed. In that amount of time, the DoD was continually unable to cite any specific protocol, procedure or schedule that would authorize the destruction of Elizondo's e-mails. Further, they would not by the writing of this article, submit any additional explanation or offer a statement.

Setting the Record Straight on Elizondo

This letter, written by former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, was sent to NBC on April 26, 2021, and widely distributed online. It vouches for Luis Elizondo, but apparently is not enough to sway the Pentagon's stated opinion on the matter.

With the mounting hurdles Elizondo has been faced with, the situation has resulted in an official DoD Inspector General evaluation after a complaint was filed by Elizondo's attorney on his behalf. In addition to his legal representation, Elizondo also does not march alone with his attempts to prove his past duties. He comes with a powerful ally who said he saw Elizondo's work first-hand.

On April 26, 2021, former Senator Harry Reid restated his previous 2019 endorsement of Elizondo's directorship and involvement in the AATIP, and that letter was first received by NBC News investigative journalist Gadi Schwartz.

"As one of the original sponsors of AATIP, I can state as a matter of record Lue Elizondo's involvement and leadership in this program," Reid said in a blanket statement to all concerned.

The Black Vault sent this letter to the Pentagon the next day for comment, yet, they did not waver on their stance they've now held for nearly two years. The Pentagon restated directly to The Black Vault their claim about Elizondo not having any "assigned responsibilities" on AATIP, and they further would not comment on Senator Reid's letter or his clear endorsement of Elizondo's claims.

When asked to clarify why the word "assigned" was added in 2019, and what it exactly meant since it was the cause of much confusion, Pentagon Spokesperson Susan Gough stated to The Black Vault simply that, "...assigned responsibilities are an individual employee's duties." Follow-ups seeking more clarity to that short statement have remained unanswered as of the writing of this article.

But despite the Pentagon's steadfast claim about Elizondo's background and work history on AATIP; a new development surfaced while researching this story. Just weeks after Elizondo stated during a press conference that he was still "actively engaged" in what is known as the UAP Task Force (UAPTF), the U.S. military's present day effort to investigate UFOs announced in August of 2020, the Pentagon yet again challenged Elizondo's assertion when asked by The Black Vault.

"Luis Elizondo departed the Department of Defense in October 2017," Gough said. "He has no position in the UAPTF, and the UAPTF has not involved him in its ongoing work."

The Black Vault contacted Elizondo for his reaction to this newest development. He expressed his frustration:

"As for my work behind the scenes to support UAP Task Force efforts, I have been patient in allowing the Pentagon to address this in a manner they are comfortable provided they do not lie. Unfortunately, it now seems they are choosing once again to obscure the truth," Elizondo said. "As in other instances, I have initiated efforts internally that will hopefully encourage the Pentagon PAO to provide more truthful information to the public. Beyond that, I care to withhold additional comment at this point and allow every opportunity for the system to correct itself. However, my reserve is not endless, nor is my patience."

Gough, a Pentagon Strategic Planner & Spokesperson since March of 2009, has spearheaded the effort to comment on Elizondo and UAPs in recent years. She is currently the only to be attributed as doing so on behalf of the U.S. government. She handles, solely, all enquiries from the media regarding UAPs and Elizondo submitted to the DOD, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Navy, Air Force, fields all questions on the UAPTF, and appears to be coordinated with on all FOIA releases regarding the same. According to internal DoD e-mails released via the FOIA, this is to ensure that "new terms/language/etc. aren't introduced that complicate the overall messaging efforts." Her involvement as a spokesperson being involved in the FOIA process remains highly controversial.

Gough's background prior to commenting on UAPs for the Pentagon has not made her popular to many online UFO "'D'isclosure" advocates. In 2003, she authored a Strategy Research Project where she wrote that the "orchestrated combination" of public diplomacy, psychological operations (PsyOps), and public affairs is the definition of what is called "strategic influence." She adds that the "DoD needs someone with the appropriate position and authority to oversee the policy and to coordinate DoD strategic influence activities among DoD public affairs, military PSYOP, and other military information activities."

This work involving PsyOps and public affairs concerns many that her message is based less on truth, and more focused on "strategically influencing" the general public.

It is unclear if Gough played a role in the original crafted 2019 "no responsibilities" statement about Elizondo, as attributed to Pentagon Spokesperson Christopher Sherwood and published by The Intercept. However, it is clear that Gough exclusively took over commenting shortly after that was printed. Since then, she appears to be strategically fine-tuning their overall messaging with numerous other statements pertaining to UAPs and Elizondo as printed by numerous media outlets. She even submitted a corrected statement to a previous position on AATIP and UFOs for a December 2019 report written by The Black Vault. She stated that Sherwood, who told the NY Post AATIP investigated UFOs, was wrong. Gough changed the Pentagon's stance by saying, "Neither AATIP nor [Advanced Aerospace Weapon Systems Applications Program] were UAP related." Though despite that claim, more than a year later in May of 2021, that correction seems to now be altered again by a new stance sent out by Gough to The Black Vault saying that AATIP utilized "reports of UAPs". As a result, more confusion has ensued to those trying to make sense of the contradicting information and to those attempting to unravel what the AATIP was truly about.

The Value of a Paper Trail

The Black Vault had already received numerous e-mails from Luis Elizondo, connected to the review of three UAP videos from the DOD. It was explained that these survived, as they were obtained from the side of DOPSR, not from Elizondo's e-mail box.

As Gough remains the only current contact that will comment on AATIP, UAP, or Elizondo related matters, it appears that at least to her, even endorsements from a former Senate Majority Leader will not make the Pentagon change their stance on Elizondo or the true scope of AATIP. Therefore, for those seeking official documentation to support either side, that hunt would need to be done through legal channels and the use of the FOIA. That tool would allow access to evidence that could certainly prove, or even disprove, Elizondo's story all together.

Specifically, that evidence would include the official communication workload generated by Elizondo himself while he said he was working on the program.

Throughout anyone's career, especially in government, a paper trail exists that would stretch beyond hundreds, thousands, even tens of thousands of pages over the course of a decade+ long employment such as Elizondo's. Part of that paper trail would largely exist in the form of e-mails that could pertain to Elizondo's day to day operations and duties; AATIP or UFO related messages; communications with his superiors; even just personal chatter between Elizondo and other DOD staff.

This is the second "final determination" letter for FOIA case 19-F-1903. The first, which did not explain why there was a "no records" determination, was appealed. This letter is the result after the appeal was granted, which revealed that the records sought were destroyed.

However, as stated above, it is now confirmed the general public will never see any of that. In a stunning admission by the DoD, that electronic paper trail in the form of e-mails generated and received by Elizondo, have all been destroyed. The entire electronic cache of data and evidence has been deleted, with no backup available.

Although Elizondo expresses doubts that the statement is even true, he also sent his reaction to The Black Vault after he learned about the DoD's announcement of his e-mails being deleted.

"If the statement by the Pentagon is true, which I am not convinced that it is, this would be a significant loss of information that belongs to the public and may even be relevant to future legal efforts. It is also becoming increasingly evident that the destruction of my e-mails, etc. may be a convenient tactic to obscure the truth of my involvement in national security activities. I sincerely

hope this is not the case."

"Future Legal Efforts"

Elizondo's reference to "future legal efforts" could have more than one meaning. Despite the DoD/OIG evaluation currently ongoing, The Black Vault made a discovery in 2019 that offered a previously unseen glimpse into the life of Elizondo.

Away from his story about AATIP, UAPs and all things unidentified, Elizondo's official title within the DoD when he resigned was "Director, National Programs Special Management Staff, OUSD(I)." The National Programs Special Management Staff (NPSMS) was mostly overlooked by researchers seeking the truth about Elizondo's background. The Black Vault had dug in to uncover what that office was all about, and after years of searching, there was not much to be found. This was possibly due to the sensitivity surrounding the day-to-day work within.

In one section of the military court transcript, the NPSMS is reference along with the description of their duties, in relation to military commissions. In the only official documents uncovered that references the NPSMS, it was revealed that Elizondo's office he directed would play an instrumental role during the military trial of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or KSM. In a 2017 military court transcript, KSM's attorney David Nevin made reference to the NPSMS, and called them the "SAP Access People." It appeared by the dialogue between Nevin and the judge presiding over the case, that the NPSMS controlled the Special Access Program (SAP) access for the defense teams interpreter. That access was required for the interpreter to hold that position, and it was the NPSMS that would orchestrate it.

In another part of the proceedings, a second transcript revealed that, "The NPSMS is the office responsible for administering the special access program for the Office of Military Commissions."

The Black Vault asked Elizondo about the above, and although he was able to confirm that this was his office and he was involved, he could not elaborate and declined to comment further.

Where this becomes incredibly important, is the reference by the DoD in their letter stating that if a DoD employee's e-mails are not considered "historical records" that they would not be retained. However, with the evidence found above, and the role the NPSMS played in at least one ongoing trial involving at least one SAP, that documented evidence would likely be considered "historical records" as they may be considered evidence in active litigation. The Black Vault brought up this fact to the FOIA office within OSD/JS, however, there was no comment offered.

Records Retention

Although it seems logical to retain records that may be involved in trials of someone like KSM, there are still circumstances where the destruction of documents, e-mails or otherwise, is authorized given certain circumstances are met. Although many records are saved in perpetuity, some can be destroyed due to set protocols put in place by federal agencies and military branches, including all components of the DoD. These "records retention schedules," also referred to as "records disposition schedules," are agency-specific protocols often published online or available via the FOIA.

Each schedule defines a long list of records, the type of record, and how long they should be retained for. It also outlines how, and why, records can be destroyed. Each agency is different, and each record has its own schedule.

In the case of Elizondo who worked at the OUSD(I), a sub-component of OSD, his e-mails are likely governed by the OSD Records & Information Management Program. Here, there are a wide range of retention schedules which deal with how long e-mails are kept under various circumstances. White House correspondence,

contractor material, general counsel communications, and many other categories all have very specific protocols set out for how long e-mails (amongst other record types) are to be kept.

The Black Vault communicated with the DoD over the course of nearly two months to determine what schedule authorized the destruction of Elizondo's e-mails. Throughout numerous communications, and follow-ups that numbered well into the double digits, those requests went ultimately unaddressed, with no official explanation given. However, in a best effort to figure out which applied, The Black Vault sifted through the numerous OSD schedules posted online.

The Black Vault then consulted with Elizondo about his work background, and after discussion, it was determined he was a "non-Capstone" official (Capstone officials are generally labeled as senior level, permanent, positions); he was a civilian employee; and he was not a contractor.

With those facts, after extensive research, the most likely category that Elizondo would fit into, thus defining the retention time of his e-mails, appears to be set forth in the 100 Series General Office Records. Within this schedule, the protocol for "Email Retention for Non-Capstone Officials" is listed. The schedule states:

The entire description above applied to Elizondo's work background, and with that, per OSD Series 100, Elizondo's e-mails should have been maintained until October 4, 2024, seven years after his resignation, as defined in the schedule. Elizondo was asked if he felt that the above schedule would apply to his position, and he confirmed that it absolute would.

After further consultation, Elizondo has put forward numerous other categories in Series 500 which he felt applied to his records. This included, sections 504-05, Intelligence, Special subject files; section 503, Intelligence, Surveillance and Warning; and section 502-07, General Systems - Policy Correspondence and Coordination, which included correspondence with and coordination of intelligence activities within the Department of Defense and with other U.S. Government entities. Each of these categories, should they apply to Elizondo's e-mails, would define the records retention schedule as "permanent" and only transferred for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) after 25 years for permanent holding. If Elizondo's e-mails applied to just one of these, then their destruction was not authorized at all, nor would it ever be.

The Elusive Truth About The Destruction of E-Mails

When it comes to Elizondo's e-mails, The Black Vault had filed at least eight FOIA requests over the past few years, seeking out keyword searches that would likely add insight and clarification to the many stories that have circulated. Words like "Unidentified," "AATIP," "AAWSAP," "UAP," "Community of Interest," "To The Stars," "DeLonge," and "Puthoff" were just some of the requests filed to see what e-mails may surface during the course of Elizondo's career. Yet oddly, many of these requests yielded "no records" responses, with no further clarification. In other words, according to Elizondo's former employer, they could not find any messages were ever sent or received by Elizondo with the aforementioned keywords. Never was there a discussion that the e-mail box did not exist.

One of the many FOIA requests giving a "no records" determination. This specific request, was for a search of Luis Elizondo's e-mail box, that contain the term "unidentified."

Numerous appeals were filed seeking additional searches. Using evidence in the form of Elizondo's own public testimony, and previously released records, the DOD agreed that many of those appeals submitted by The Black Vault should be granted and new searches would be done.

Generally, agencies will stipulate when records are destroyed (or at least, thought to be destroyed). The Black Vault has numerous examples to cite when "no

records" responses are given under such circumstances. However, in these cases regarding Elizondo's e-mails, that was never done in the numerous "no records" denials. They simply said there were "no records" found, indicating they searched his e-mail box(es) but found nothing with the keywords specified.

In one particular example, The Black Vault's FOIA case 19-F-1903, requested, "all e-mails, sent to and/or from Luis Elizondo... with the following keyword: 'Unidentified.'" The case originally yielded the "no records" response on December 13, 2019. After an appeal was filed three days later, it was granted and the request was returned to the FOIA officers for re-processing.

This is part of one out of numerous exchanges, confirming that three "accounts" of Elizondo were searched. Note there was never an indication records were destroyed here, or elsewhere, when communicating about the cases. (Note: Blur added as a courtesy for privacy reasons.)

There were numerous exchanges between The Black Vault and the FOIA officer on this case which would confirm that a) NIPR, SIPR and JWICS networks (each system holds different levels of classified information up to the Top Secret level) had been searched, along with b) ensuring that the entire timeframe of Elizondo's employment would be explored to ensure all responsive records would be found. During the course of these communications, never was it said that e-mail boxes were destroyed or did not exist. Rather, it was confirmed that the three accounts were searched across the three systems while processing the original request.

It would then take more than a year to finally close this particular case. On April 1, 2021, (irony of the date noted) the DOD issued another "no records" determination and said they found no e-mails sent to/from Elizondo containing the word "Unidentified." However, this time, additional language had been added to the response letter.

This excerpt from the letter, dated, April 1, 2021, added additional language insinuating that Elizondo's e-mails were not saved. No where in the extensive communications, was it stated that e-mails were sought in mailboxes that had already been destroyed.

It was this language that showed that the material sought after for more than three years, throughout numerous FOIA cases and appeals, was entirely gone.

Was It Deliberate?

Regardless of records retention or disposition schedules, many will theorize that the deletion of e-mails was another targeted attempt to continue the smear campaign of Elizondo. When asked about this, Elizondo would not speculate.

"I do not want to speculate on the possibility if this was an intentional act. I shutter at the thought that someone in a position of authority would purposely destroy historically significant records for the purpose of obfuscation and deceit; possibly crossing the boundaries of criminal activity," Elizondo added. "For this reason, I prefer to let the system respond to your inquiry. However, it is no surprise to many that for the last 3 years I have been targeted by some in the Pentagon for retribution, which continues to this day. I truly hope this is not related."

The Way Forward

The destruction of Elizondo's e-mails is a crushing blow to the investigation process, but it is not a final one. Given the likelihood the AATIP program would have generated numerous other records and reports outside of an e-mail box; hope is not completely lost for future document releases that may answer some long-standing questions. That will just take time, and many of those FOIA cases that should yield such revelations have now remained open for years, as filed by The Black Vault beginning in 2017.

Hope may also not be totally lost on Elizondo's e-mails, either. The Black

Vault, in the weeks prior to the publishing of this article, filed numerous FOIA requests throughout multiple government agencies, seeking out additional documentation which may even include e-mails sent to/from Elizondo. Although documentation of any kind can be destroyed at the agency level, there are sometimes ways to potentially get that information elsewhere. It has happened before and may even just happen again.

Often with FOIA, as one door closes, two or three swing open with new opportunities and avenues to traverse. In this particular case regarding Elizondo, it may just be there are quite a few more than just two or three doors that have now presented themselves.

FOIA may soon shine light on material that some want you to believe is gone for good.

But that will be a story for another day...

###

Full Statements

The following were statements submitted to The Black Vault for this article. They are published here, in full, to show them in their entirety.

Luis Elizondo

Luis Elizondo - Photo Credit: Roger Kisby for The New York Times.

"If the statement by the Pentagon is true, which I am not convinced that it is, this would be a significant loss of information that belongs to the public and may even be relevant to future legal efforts. It is also becoming increasingly evident that the destruction of my e-mails, etc may be a convenient tactic to obscure the truth of my involvement in national security activities. I sincerely hope this is not the case."

"Even at the unclassified level, any correspondence would be considered relevant to the discovery process pertaining certain aspects of my job title, duties, and performance in other areas. In fact, it would be considered as relevant towards evidence from both a prosecutorial and defense perspective."

"I do not want to speculate on the possibility if this was an intentional act. I shutter at the thought that someone in a position of authority would purposely destroy historically significant records for the purpose of obfuscation and deceit; possibly crossing the boundaries of criminal activity. For this reason, i prefer to let the system respond to your inquiry. However, it is no surprise to many that for the last 3 years i have been targeted by some in the Pentagon for retribution, which continues to this day. I truly hope this is not related."

Regarding being "actively engaged" in the UAPTF:

"As we have seen time, and time again regarding the Pentagon's responses, they still cant get their story straight. It should be no surprise that the consequence of this has now resulted in an official DoD IG Evaluation regarding the Pentagon's handling of this topic. As recently as this week, the Pentagon PAO changed their stance again on the purpose of AATIP, partially admitting what we already knew for years. As for my work behind the scenes to support UAP Task Force efforts, I have been patient in allowing the Pentagon to address this in a manner they are comfortable provided they do not lie. Unfortunately, it now seems they are choosing once again to obscure the truth. As in other instances, I have initiated efforts internally that will hopefully encourage the Pentagon PAO to provide more truthful information to the public. Beyond that, I care to withhold additional comment at this point and allow every opportunity for the system to correct itself. However, my reserve is not endless, nor is my patience."

Susan Gough

"I refer to Mr. Reid's office. We have no comment on his letter."

"Assigned responsibilities are an individual employee's duties."

"Luis Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP while he was assigned to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense of Intelligence. Luis Elizondo departed the Department of Defense in October 2017. He has no position in the UAPTF, and the UAPTF has not involved him in its ongoing work."

Document Archive

Here is the full "Case File" for the above FOIA that revealed this story. It was released under FOIA Case 22-F-1235 and released October 2022.

Download [5.33 MB]

Follow The Black Vault on Social Media:

Related Posts

Six and a Half Years Later, the DoD's Reply to Harry Reid's AATIP Memo Remains Missing

December 26, 2025

Pentagon Reopens Search for Alleged "Yankee Blue" Memo After Initial Denial

December 15, 2025

Inside the Pentagon's Review of Christopher Mellon's Alleged UFO Crash Retrieval Text

November 24, 2025

Comments are closed.

Search The Black Vault

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Advertisement

Shop

Inside The Black Vault - Paperback Edition - Book Only (Autographed) Inside The Black Vault - Paperback Edition - Book Only (Autographed)

\$19.99 - \$22.99 Price range: \$19.99 through \$22.99

Help Make This Site Possible

Can you help support The Black Vault?

Become a Patron!

Or, a One Time Donation option is also available:

Donate with PayPal button

FOIA Document Categories

Government

Congressional & Senatorial Correspondence

Controversies

Elections

Government Accountability & I.G. Reports

Government Employee Manuals / Orientation

Politician Public Financial Disclosure Statements

TV Show Complaints

U.S. Financial Information

History

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Collection

Department of Defense Collection

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Collection

J.F.K. Era

National Security Agency (NSA) Collection

Office of Technology Assessment Collection

Richard Helms Collection

Intelligence

Cryptology

FBI Files / Domestic & Foreign Intelligence
Field Manuals
Freedom of Information Act / Research Tools
Spy Satellites and the NRO
Military / Defense
Advanced "For Its Time" Technology
Aircraft / Air Force History
Bombers
Cargo
E"X"perimental
Fighters
Foreign
Reconnaissance
Spy Planes
Stealth
Unconfirmed
Biological / Chemical Weapons
Defense Issues
Military and Commercial Accidents
Nuclear Weapons
Psychological Operations
Terrorism
Assassination Attempts
September 11th, 2001
Weapons
Mysteries
Mind Control
New World Order
Parapsychology
Remote Viewing
UFO Phenomena
Science
Cloning
Disease and Human Health
Environmental Issues
Space
Weather / Weather Modification
Wartime
Afghanistan War
Cold War Era
Iraq Wars
Vietnam Era
World War I
World War II
The Black Vault Radio
bvr
VIEW RECENT EPISODES
Advertisement
Facebook
X (Twitter)
YouTube
Instagram
TikTok
Discord
Home
Document Archive
Case File Database
FOIA Documents
FBI Files
Government
Congressional & Senatorial Correspondence
Controversies
Elections
Government Accountability & I.G. Reports

Government Employee Manuals / Orientation
Politician Public Financial Disclosure Statements
TV Show Complaints
U.S. Financial Information
History
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Collection
Department of Defense Collection
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Collection
J.F.K. Era
National Security Agency (NSA) Collection
Office of Technology Assessment Collection
Richard Helms Collection
Intelligence
Cryptology
FBI Files / Domestic & Foreign Intelligence
Field Manuals
Freedom of Information Act / Research Tools
Spy Satellites and the NRO
Military / Defense
Advanced "For Its Time" Technology
Aircraft / Air Force History
Bombers
Cargo
E"X"perimental
Fighters
Foreign
Reconnaissance
Spy Planes
Stealth
Biological / Chemical Weapons
Defense Issues
Military and Commercial Accidents
Nuclear Weapons
Psychological Operations
Terrorism
Assassination Attempts
September 11th, 2001
Weapons
Mysteries
Mind Control
New World Order
Parapsychology
Remote Viewing
UFO Phenomena
Science
Cloning
Disease and Human Health
Environmental Issues
Space
Weather / Weather Modification
Wartime
World War I
World War II
Vietnam Era
Cold War Era
Iraq Wars
Afghanistan War
Paranormal Case Files
Chat
Facebook Group
Discord Server
Podcast
Shop
Books

T-Shirts
Account details
Donate
© 2025 The Black Vault, Inc.

WikipediaThe Free Encyclopedia

Donate
Create account
Log in

COINTELPRO

Article
Talk
Read
Edit
View history

Tools
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

COINTELPRO memo proposing a plan to expose the pregnancy of actress Jean Seberg, a financial supporter of the Black Panther Party, hoping to "possibly cause her embarrassment or tarnish her image with the general public". Covert campaigns to publicly discredit activists and destroy their interpersonal relationships were a common tactic used by COINTELPRO agents.

COINTELPRO (a syllabic abbreviation derived from Counter Intelligence Program) was a series of covert and illegal[1][2][3] projects conducted between 1956 and 1971 by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting American political parties and organizations that the FBI perceived as subversive.[4][5][6][7]

Groups and individuals targeted by the FBI included feminist organizations,[8] [9] the Communist Party USA,[10] anti-Vietnam War organizers, activists in the civil rights and Black power movements (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and the Black Panther Party), student organizations such as Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)[11] and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), environmentalist and animal rights organizations, the American Indian Movement (AIM), Chicano and Mexican-American groups like the Brown Berets and the United Farm Workers, and independence movements (including Puerto Rican independence groups, such as the Young Lords and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party). Although the program primarily focused on organizations that were part of the broader New Left, they also targeted white supremacist groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan[12][13][14] and the National States' Rights Party.[15]

The FBI engaged in covert operations targeting domestic political groups from its earliest years. Covert operations under the official COINTELPRO label took place between 1956 and 1971. However, the official chronology of the program is the subject of debate. According to a US Senate investigation, "If COINTELPRO had been a short-lived aberration, the thorny problems of motivation, techniques, and control presented might be safely relegated to history. However, COINTELPRO existed for years on an ad hoc basis before the formal programs were instituted, and more significantly, COINTELPRO-type activities may continue today under the rubric of 'investigation'." [16] Many of the tactics used in COINTELPRO are alleged to have seen continued use, including discrediting targets through psychological warfare; smearing individuals and groups using forged documents and by planting false reports in the media; harassment; wrongful imprisonment; illegal violence; and assassination.[17][18][19][20] According to a Senate report, the FBI's motivation was "protecting national security, preventing violence, and maintaining the existing social and political order". [16]

Beginning in 1969, Black Panther party leaders were targeted by the COINTELPRO and "neutralized" through tactics including assassination, imprisonment, public humiliation, and false criminal charges. Some of the Black Panthers targeted include Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, Assata Shakur, Geronimo Pratt, Mumia Abu-Jamal,[21] and Marshall Conway. Common tactics used by COINTELPRO were perjury, witness harassment, witness intimidation, and withholding of exculpatory evidence.[22][23][24]

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover issued directives governing COINTELPRO, ordering FBI agents to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" the activities of these movements and especially their leaders.[25][26] Under Hoover, the official in charge of COINTELPRO was assistant director William C. Sullivan.[27] Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy personally authorized some of the programs,[28] giving written approval for limited wiretapping of Martin Luther King's phones "on a trial basis, for a month or so".[29] Hoover extended the clearance so his men were "unshackled" to look for evidence in any areas of King's life they deemed worthy.[30]

History

The FBI initiated COINTELPRO, an abbreviation for Counterintelligence Program, in 1956 with the aim of undermining the operations of the Communist Party of the United States. In the 1960s, the scope of the organization was broadened to encompass various additional domestic factions, including the Ku Klux Klan, the Socialist Workers Party, and the Black Panther Party. The cessation of all COINTELPRO operations occurred in 1971. Despite its relatively small scale (constituting approximately 0.2% of the FBI's overall workload during a 15-year timeframe), COINTELPRO was subsequently subject to criticism from both Congress and the American public for infringing upon first amendment rights and other grounds.[31]

Tactics included anonymous phone calls, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audits, and the creation of documents that would divide the American communist organization internally.[10] An October 1956 memo from Hoover reclassified the FBI's ongoing surveillance of black leaders, including it within COINTELPRO, with the justification that the movement was infiltrated by communists.[32] In 1956, Hoover sent an open letter denouncing Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a civil rights leader, surgeon, and wealthy entrepreneur in Mississippi who had criticized FBI inaction in solving recent murders of George W. Lee, Emmett Till, and other African Americans in the South.[33] When the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), an African-American civil rights organization, was founded in 1957, the FBI began to monitor and target the group almost immediately, focusing particularly on Bayard Rustin, Stanley Levison, and eventually Martin Luther King Jr.[34]

Part of the 1964 "suicide letter"[35] that the FBI mailed anonymously to Martin Luther King Jr.. King interpreted the letter as an effort to persuade him to commit suicide.[35] More portions of the letter would be released in 2014.[35] After the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Hoover singled out King as a major target for COINTELPRO. Under pressure from Hoover to focus on King, Sullivan wrote:[36]

In the light of King's powerful demagogic speech ... We must mark him now if we have not done so before, as the most dangerous Negro of the future in this nation from the standpoint of communism, the Negro, and national security.

Soon after, the FBI was systematically bugging King's home and his hotel rooms, as they were now aware that King was growing in stature daily as the most prominent leader of the civil rights movement.[37]

In the mid-1960s, King began to publicly criticize the Bureau for giving insufficient attention to the use of terrorism by white supremacists. Hoover responded by publicly calling King the most "notorious liar" in the United States.[38] In his 1991 memoir, Washington Post journalist Carl Rowan asserted

that the FBI had sent at least one anonymous letter to King encouraging him to commit suicide.[39] Historian Taylor Branch documents an anonymous "suicide package" sent by the FBI on November 21, 1964, that contained audio recordings obtained through tapping King's phone and placing bugs throughout various hotel rooms over the previous two years,[40] and that was created two days after the announcement of King's impending Nobel Peace Prize.[40] The tape, which was prepared by FBI audio technician John Matter,[40] documented a series of sexual indiscretions by King combined with a letter telling him: "There is only one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal, fraudulent self is bared to the nation".[41] King believed that he was subsequently informed that the audio would be released to the media if he did not acquiesce and commit suicide prior to accepting his Nobel Peace Prize.[40] When King refused to satisfy their coercion tactics, FBI Associate Director, Cartha D. DeLoach, commenced a media campaign offering the surveillance transcript to various news organizations, including Newsweek and Newsday.[40] By 1969—one year after King's assassination—FBI efforts to "expose" him continued unabated. According to Church Committee findings, the Bureau "furnished ammunition to opponents that enabled attacks on King's memory and ... tried to block efforts to honor the slain leader." [41] However, more portions of the FBI letter to King were made public in 2014 which suggested that the FBI's intent was to push King out of leadership and have "older leaders" like Roy Wilkins lead the civil right movement.[35] The claim that the FBI's intent was to remove King from SCLC leadership was also previously backed in 1976 by the findings of the Church Committee.[42]

During the same period the program also targeted Malcolm X. While an FBI spokesman has denied that the FBI was "directly" involved in Malcolm's murder in 1965, it is documented that the Bureau worked to "widen the rift" between Malcolm and Elijah Muhammad through infiltration and the "sparking of acrimonious debates within the organization", rumor-mongering, and other tactics designed to foster internal disputes, which ultimately led to Malcolm's assassination.[43][44] The FBI heavily infiltrated Malcolm's Organization of Afro-American Unity in the final months of his life. Manning Marable's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Malcolm X asserts that most of the men who plotted Malcolm's assassination were never apprehended and that the full extent of the FBI's involvement in his death cannot be known.[45][46]

Amidst the urban unrest of July-August 1967, the FBI began "COINTELPRO-BLACK HATE", which focused on King and the SCLC, as well as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the Nation of Islam.[47] BLACK HATE established the Ghetto Informant Program and instructed 23 FBI offices to "disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of black nationalist hate type organizations".[48]

A March 1968 memo stated the program's goal was to "prevent the coalition of militant black nationalist groups"; to "Prevent the RISE OF A 'MESSIAH' who could unify ... the militant black nationalist movement"; "to pinpoint potential troublemakers and neutralize them before they exercise their potential for violence [against authorities]"; to "Prevent militant black nationalist groups and leaders from gaining RESPECTABILITY, by discrediting them to ... both the responsible community and to liberals who have vestiges of sympathy"; and to "prevent the long-range GROWTH of militant black organizations, especially among youth". Dr. King was said to have potential to be the "messiah" figure, should he abandon nonviolence and integrationism,[49] and Stokely Carmichael was noted to have "the necessary charisma to be a real threat in this way" as he was portrayed as someone who espoused a much more militant vision of "black power". [50] While the FBI was particularly concerned with leaders and organizers, they did not limit their scope of target to the heads of organizations. Individuals, e.g. writers, were also listed among the targets of operations.[51]

This program coincided with a broader federal effort to prepare military responses for urban riots and began increased collaboration between the FBI, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and the Department of

Defense. The CIA launched its own domestic espionage project in 1967 called Operation CHAOS.[52] A particular target was the Poor People's Campaign, a national effort organized by King and the SCLC to occupy Washington, DC. The FBI monitored and disrupted the campaign on a national level, while using targeted smear tactics locally to undermine support for the march.[53] The Black Panther Party was another targeted organization, wherein the FBI collaborated to destroy the party from the inside out.[51]

Overall, COINTELPRO encompassed disruption and sabotage of the Socialist Workers Party (1961), the Ku Klux Klan (1964), the Nation of Islam, the Black Panther Party (1967), and the entire New Left social/political movement, which included antiwar, community, and religious groups (1968). A later investigation by the Senate's Church Committee (see below) stated that "COINTELPRO began in 1956, in part because of frustration with Supreme Court rulings limiting the Government's power to proceed overtly against dissident groups." [54] Official congressional committees and several court cases [55] have concluded that COINTELPRO operations against communist and socialist groups exceeded statutory limits on FBI activity and violated constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and association.[2]

Uncovering

Main articles: Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI and Church Committee

The building broken into by the Citizen's Commission to Investigate the FBI, at One Veterans Square, Media, Pennsylvania

The program was secret until March 8, 1971, when the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI burgled an FBI field office in Media, Pennsylvania, took several dossiers, and exposed the program by passing this material to news agencies.[2][56] The boxing match known as the Fight of the Century between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in March 1971 provided cover for the activist group to successfully pull off the burglary. Muhammad Ali was a COINTELPRO target because he had joined the Nation of Islam and the anti-war movement.[57]

Many news organizations initially refused to immediately publish the information, with the notable exception of The Washington Post. After affirming the reliability of the documents, it published them on the front page (in defiance of the Attorney General's request), prompting other organizations to follow suit. Within the year, Director J. Edgar Hoover declared that the centralized COINTELPRO was over, and that all future counterintelligence operations would be handled case by case.[58][59]

Additional documents were revealed in the course of separate lawsuits filed against the FBI by NBC correspondent Carl Stern, the Socialist Workers Party, and a number of other groups. In 1976 the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities of the United States Senate, commonly referred to as the "Church Committee" after its chairman, Senator Frank Church (Democrat, Idaho), launched a major investigation of the FBI and COINTELPRO. Many released documents have been partly or entirely redacted.

The Final Report of the Select Committee castigated the conduct of the intelligence community in its domestic operations (including COINTELPRO) in no uncertain terms:

The Committee finds that the domestic activities of the intelligence community at times violated specific statutory prohibitions and infringed the constitutional rights of American citizens. The legal questions involved in intelligence programs were often not considered. On other occasions, they were intentionally disregarded in the belief that because the programs served the "national security" the law did not apply. While intelligence officers on occasion failed to disclose to their superiors programs which were illegal or of questionable legality, the Committee finds that the most serious breaches of duty were those of senior officials, who were responsible for controlling intelligence activities and generally failed to assure compliance with the law. [2] Many of the techniques used would be intolerable in a democratic society even if all of the targets had been involved in violent activity, but COINTELPRO

went far beyond that ... the Bureau conducted a sophisticated vigilante operation aimed squarely at preventing the exercise of First Amendment rights of speech and association, on the theory that preventing the growth of dangerous groups and the propagation of dangerous ideas would protect the national security and deter violence.[54]

The Church Committee documented a history of the FBI (initially called BOI until 1936) exercising political repression as far back as World War I, and through the 1920s, when agents were charged with rounding up "anarchists, communists, socialists, reformists and revolutionaries" for deportation. From 1936 through 1976, the domestic operations were increased against political and anti-war groups.

In 1988, the Socialist Workers Party won a landmark settlement in federal court against the Bureau for its third Counterintelligence Program, which Hoover's agency launched against the SWP in 1961.[60]

FBI claimed intent of COINTELPRO

The FBI claimed that the purpose behind COINTELPRO was to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, or otherwise neutralize" groups that the FBI officials believed were "subversive"[61] by instructing FBI field operatives to:[62]

Create a negative public image for target groups (for example through surveilling activists and then releasing negative personal information to the public)

Break down internal organization by creating conflicts (for example, by having agents exacerbate racial tensions, or send anonymous letters to try to create conflicts)

Create dissension between groups (for example, by spreading rumors that other groups were stealing money)

Restrict access to public resources (for example, by pressuring non-profit organizations to cut off funding or material support)

Restrict the ability to organize protest (for example, through agents promoting violence against police during planning and at protests)

Restrict the ability of individuals to participate in group activities (for example, by character assassinations, false arrests, surveillance.)

Range of targets

At its inception, the program's main target was the Communist Party.[51]

In an interview with the BBC's Andrew Marr in February 1996, Noam Chomsky—a political activist and MIT professor of linguistics—spoke about the purpose and the targets of COINTELPRO, saying:[63]

COINTELPRO was a program of subversion carried out not by a couple of petty crooks but by the national political police, the FBI, under four administrations ... by the time it got through, I won't run through the whole story, it was aimed at the entire new left, at the women's movement, at the whole black movement, it was extremely broad. Its actions went as far as political assassination.

According to the Church Committee:[64]

While the declared purposes of these programs were to protect the "national security" or prevent violence, Bureau witnesses admit that many of the targets were nonviolent and most had no connections with a foreign power. Indeed, nonviolent organizations and individuals were targeted because the Bureau believed they represented a "potential" for violence—and nonviolent citizens who were against the war in Vietnam were targeted because they gave "aid and comfort" to violent demonstrators by lending respectability to their cause.

The imprecision of the targeting is demonstrated by the inability of the Bureau to define the subjects of the programs. The Black Nationalist program, according to its supervisor, included "a great number of organizations that you might not today characterize as black nationalist but which were in fact primarily black".

Thus, the nonviolent Southern Christian Leadership Conference was labeled as a Black Nationalist "Hate Group".

Furthermore, the actual targets were chosen from a far broader group than the titles of the programs would imply. The CPUSA program targeted not only Communist Party members but also sponsors of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee and civil rights leaders allegedly under Communist influence or deemed to be not sufficiently "anti-Communist". The Socialist Workers Party program included non-SWP sponsors of anti-war demonstrations which were cosponsored by the SWP or the Young Socialist Alliance, its youth group. The Black Nationalist program targeted a range of organizations from the Panthers to SNCC to the peaceful Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and included every Black Student Union and many other black student groups. New Left targets ranged from the SDS to the InterUniversity Committee for Debate on Foreign Policy, from Antioch College ("vanguard of the New Left") to the New Mexico Free University and other "alternate" schools, and from underground newspapers to students' protesting university censorship of a student publication by carrying signs with four-letter words on them.

Examples of surveillance, spanning all presidents from FDR to Nixon, both legal and illegal, contained in the Church Committee report:[65]

President Roosevelt (1933-1945) asked the FBI to put in its files the names of citizens sending telegrams to the White House opposing his "national defense" policy and supporting Col. Charles Lindbergh.

President Truman (1945-1953) received inside information on a former Roosevelt aide's efforts to influence his appointments, labor union negotiating plans, and the publishing plans of journalists.

President Eisenhower (1953-1961) received reports on purely political and social contacts with foreign officials by Bernard Baruch, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

The Kennedy administration (1961-1963) had the FBI wiretap a congressional staff member, three executive officials, a lobbyist, and a Washington law firm. US Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy received the fruits of an FBI wiretap on Martin Luther King Jr. and an electronic listening device targeting a congressman, both of which yielded information of a political nature.

President Johnson (1963-1969) asked the FBI to conduct "name checks" of his critics and members of the staff of his 1964 opponent, Senator Barry Goldwater. He also requested purely political intelligence on his critics in the Senate and received extensive intelligence reports on political activity at the 1964 Democratic Convention from FBI electronic surveillance.

President Nixon (1969-1974) authorized a program of wiretaps, which produced for the White House purely political or personal information unrelated to national security, including information about a Supreme Court Justice.

Groups that were known to be targets of COINTELPRO operations include:[66]

Communist and socialist organizations.

Organizations and individuals associated with the civil rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others associated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Congress of Racial Equality, and other civil rights organizations.

Black nationalist groups.

The Young Lords.

The American Indian Movement.

White supremacist groups, including the Ku Klux Klan.

The American Nazi Party.

The National States' Rights Party.

A broad range of organizations labeled "New Left", Students for a Democratic Society the Weathermen, and environmental activists.

Almost all groups protesting the Vietnam War, as well as individual student demonstrators with no group affiliation.

The National Lawyers Guild.

Organizations and individuals associated with the women's rights movement. Nationalist groups, such as those seeking independence for Puerto Rico, reunification of Ireland, and Cuban exile movements including Orlando Bosch's Cuban Power and the Cuban Nationalist Movement. Additional notable American individuals.

The COINTELPRO operators targeted multiple groups at once and encouraged splintering of these groups from within. In letter-writing campaigns (wherein false letters were sent on behalf of members of parties), the FBI ensured that groups would not unite in their causes. For instance, they launched a campaign specifically to alienate the Black Panther Party from the Mau Maus, Young Lords, Young Patriots and SDS. These racially diverse groups had been building alliances, in part due to charismatic leaders, such as Fred Hampton and his attempts to create a "Rainbow Coalition". The FBI was concerned with ensuring that groups could not gain traction through unity, specifically across racial lines. One of the main ways of targeting these groups was to arouse suspicion between the different parties and causes. In this way the bureau took on a divide-and-conquer offensive.[51]

The COINTELPRO documents show numerous cases of the FBI's intentions to prevent and disrupt protests against the Vietnam War. Many techniques were used to accomplish this task. "These included promoting splits among antiwar forces, encouraging red-baiting of socialists, and pushing violent confrontations as an alternative to massive, peaceful demonstrations." One 1966 COINTELPRO operation tried to redirect the Socialist Workers Party from their pledge of support for the antiwar movement.[67]

The FBI has said that it no longer undertakes COINTELPRO or COINTELPRO-like operations. However, critics have claimed that agency programs in the spirit of COINTELPRO targeted groups such as the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador,[68] the American Indian Movement,[69][70] Earth First!, [71] and the anti-globalization movement.[72]

Methods

Body of Fred Hampton, national spokesman for the Black Panther Party, who was assassinated[73][74] by members of the Chicago Police Department, with the raid itself being a COINTELPRO operation, although there is no proof the assassination itself was[19][75]

According to attorney Brian Glick in his book War at Home, the FBI used five main methods during COINTELPRO:

Infiltration: Agents and informers did not merely spy on political activists. Their main purpose was to discredit, disrupt and negatively redirect action. Their very presence served to undermine trust and scare off potential supporters. The FBI and police exploited this fear to smear genuine activists as agents.

Psychological warfare: The FBI and police used a myriad of "dirty tricks" to undermine movements. They planted false media stories and published bogus leaflets and other publications in the name of targeted groups. They forged correspondence, sent anonymous letters, and made anonymous telephone calls. They spread misinformation about meetings and events, set up pseudo movement groups run by government agents, and manipulated or strong-armed parents, employers, landlords, school officials, and others to cause trouble for activists. They used bad-jacketing to create suspicion about targeted activists, sometimes with lethal consequences.[76]

Harassment via the legal system: The FBI and police abused the legal system to harass dissidents and make them appear to be criminals. Officers of the law gave perjured testimony and presented fabricated evidence as a pretext for false arrests and wrongful imprisonment. They discriminatorily enforced tax laws and other government regulations and used conspicuous surveillance, "investigative" interviews, and grand jury subpoenas in an effort to intimidate activists and silence their supporters.[75][77]

Illegal force: The FBI conspired with local police departments to threaten dissidents; to conduct illegal break-ins in order to search dissident homes; and

to commit vandalism, assaults, beatings and assassinations.[75] The objective was to frighten or eliminate dissidents and disrupt their movements. Undermine public opinion: One of the primary ways the FBI targeted organizations was by challenging their reputations in the community and denying them a platform to gain legitimacy. Hoover specifically designed programs to block leaders from "spreading their philosophy publicly or through the communications media". Furthermore, the organization created and controlled negative media meant to undermine black power organizations. For instance, they oversaw the creation of "documentaries" skillfully edited to paint the Black Panther Party as aggressive, and false newspapers that spread misinformation about party members. The ability of the FBI to create distrust within and between revolutionary organizations tainted their public image and weakened chances at unity and public support.[51]

The FBI specifically developed tactics intended to heighten tension and hostility between various factions in the black power movement, for example between the Black Panthers and the US Organization. For instance, the FBI sent a fake letter to the US Organization exposing a supposed Black Panther plot to murder the head of the US Organization, Ron Karenga. They then intensified this by spreading falsely attributed cartoons in the black communities pitting the Black Panther Party against the US Organization.[51] This resulted in numerous deaths, among which were San Diego Black Panther Party members John Huggins, Bunchy Carter and Sylvester Bell.[75] Another example of the FBI's anonymous letter writing campaign is how they turned the Blackstone Rangers head, Jeff Fort, against former ally Fred Hampton, by stating that Hampton had a hit on Fort.[51] They also were instrumental in developing the rift between Black Panther Party leaders Eldridge Cleaver and Huey Newton, as executed through false letters inciting the two leaders of the Black Panther Party.[51]

Dhoruba Bin Wahad, a former Black Panther, reflects on how these tactics made him feel, saying he had a combat mentality and felt like he was at war with the government. When asked about why he thinks the Black Panthers were targeted he said,

In the United States, the equivalent of the military was the local police. During the early sixties, at the height of the civil rights movement, and the human rights movement, the police in the United States became increasingly militaristic. They began to train out of military bases in the United States. The Law Enforcement Assistance Act supplied local police with military technology, everything from assault rifles to army personnel carriers. In his opinion, the Counterintelligence Program went hand-in-hand with the militarization of the police in the Black community, with the militarization of police in America.[78]

The FBI also conspired with the police departments of many U.S. cities (San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Philadelphia, Chicago) to encourage repeated raids on Black Panther homes—often with little or no evidence of violations of federal, state, or local laws—which resulted in the police killing many members of the Black Panther Party, most notably Chicago Black Panther Party Chairman Fred Hampton on December 4, 1969. Whether or not the FBI sanctioned his killing remains unproven.[19][75][79] Before the death of Hampton, long-term infiltrator, William O'Neal, shared floor plans of his apartment with the COINTELPRO team. He then gave Hampton a dose of secobarbital that rendered Hampton unconscious during the raid on his home.[51]

In order to eliminate black militant leaders whom they considered dangerous, the FBI is believed to have worked with local police departments to target specific individuals,[80] accuse them of crimes they did not commit, suppress exculpatory evidence and falsely incarcerate them. Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, a Black Panther Party leader, was incarcerated for 27 years before a California Superior Court vacated his murder conviction, ultimately freeing him. Appearing before the court, an FBI agent testified that he believed Pratt had been framed, because both the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department knew he had not been in the area at the time the murder occurred.[81][82]

Some sources claim that the FBI conducted more than 200 "black bag jobs", [83] [84][full citation needed] which were warrantless surreptitious entries, against the targeted groups and their members. [85]

In 1969 the FBI special agent in San Francisco wrote Hoover that his investigation of the Black Panther Party had concluded that in his city, at least, the Panthers were primarily engaged in feeding breakfast to children. Hoover fired back a memo implying the agent's career goals would be directly affected by his supplying evidence to support Hoover's view that the Black Panther Party was "a violence-prone organization seeking to overthrow the Government by revolutionary means". [86]

Hoover supported using false claims to attack his political enemies. In one memo he wrote: "Purpose of counterintelligence action is to disrupt the Black Panther Party and it is immaterial whether facts exist to substantiate the charge." [87]

Viola's family endured Hoover's claiming that cuts on her arm from the car's shattered window indicated "recent drug use" and that her proximity to Moton resembled "a necking party", despite an autopsy revealing no traces of drugs in her system and indicating she hadn't had sex recently before her death.

-On the FBI's targeting of Viola Liuzzo [88]

In one particularly controversial 1965 incident, white civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo was murdered by Ku Klux Klansmen, who gave chase and fired shots into her car after noticing that her passenger was a young black man; one of the Klansmen was Gary Thomas Rowe, an acknowledged FBI informant. [89][90] The FBI spread rumors that Liuzzo was a member of the Communist Party and had abandoned her children to have sexual relationships with African Americans involved in the civil rights movement. [91][92] FBI records show that J. Edgar Hoover personally communicated these insinuations to President Johnson. [93][94] Despite this, three Klansmen would be convicted in a federal trial for Liuzzo's murder in December 1965. [95]

FBI informant Rowe has also been implicated in some of the most violent crimes of the 1960s civil rights era, including attacks on the Freedom Riders and the 1963 Birmingham, Alabama 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. [89]

The ACLU has claimed the FBI supported an extreme right-wing group of former Minutemen, transforming it into a group called the Secret Army Organization that targeted groups, activists, and leaders involved in the Anti-War Movement, using both intimidation and violent acts. [96][97][98][99]

Hoover ordered preemptive action "to pinpoint potential troublemakers and neutralize them before they exercise their potential for violence". [25]

Illegal surveillance

The final report of the Church Committee concluded:

Too many people have been spied upon by too many Government agencies and too much information has been illegally collected. The Government has often undertaken the secret surveillance of citizens on the basis of their political beliefs, even when those beliefs posed no threat of violence or illegal acts on behalf of a hostile foreign power. The Government, operating primarily through secret and biased informants, but also using other intrusive techniques, such as wiretaps, microphone "bugs", surreptitious mail opening, and break-ins, has swept in vast amounts of information about the personal lives, views, and associations of American citizens. Investigations of groups deemed potentially dangerous—and even of groups suspected of associating with potentially dangerous organizations—have continued for decades, despite the fact that those groups did not engage in unlawful activity.

Groups and individuals have been assaulted, repressed, harassed and disrupted because of their political views, social beliefs and their lifestyles. Investigations have been based upon vague standards whose breadth made excessive

collection inevitable. Unsavory, harmful and vicious tactics have been employed—including anonymous attempts to break up marriages, disrupt meetings, ostracize persons from their professions, and provoke target groups into rivalries that might result in deaths. Intelligence agencies have served the political and personal objectives of presidents and other high officials. While the agencies often committed excesses in response to pressure from high officials in the Executive branch and Congress, they also occasionally initiated improper activities and then concealed them from officials whom they had a duty to inform.

Governmental officials—including those whose principal duty is to enforce the law—have violated or ignored the law over long periods of time and have advocated and defended their right to break the law.

The Constitutional system of checks and balances has not adequately controlled intelligence activities. Until recently the Executive branch has neither delineated the scope of permissible activities nor established procedures for supervising intelligence agencies. Congress has failed to exercise sufficient oversight, seldom questioning the use to which its appropriations were being put. Most domestic intelligence issues have not reached the courts, and in those cases when they have reached the courts, the judiciary has been reluctant to grapple with them.[100][101]

Later similar operations

While COINTELPRO was officially terminated in April 1971, domestic espionage continued.[102][103][104] Between 1972 and 1974, it is documented that the Bureau planted over 500 bugs without a warrant and opened over 2,000 pieces of personal mail. More recent targets of covert action include the American Indian Movement (AIM), Earth First!, and Committees in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.[105] Documents released under the FOIA show that the FBI tracked the late David Halberstam—a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author—for more than two decades.[106] "Counterterrorism" guidelines implemented during the Reagan administration have been described as allowing a return to COINTELPRO tactics.[107] Some radical groups accuse factional opponents of being FBI informants or assume the FBI is infiltrating the movement.[108] COINTELPRO survivor Filiberto Ojeda Rios was killed by the FBI's hostage rescue team in 2005,[109] his death described by a United Nations special committee as an assassination.[110]

Environmentalist Eric McDavid, convicted on arson charges, was released after documents emerged demonstrating that the FBI informant in his Earth Liberation Front group provided crucial leadership, information, and material without which the crime could not have been committed,[111] repeating the same pattern of behavior of COINTELPRO.[112] It has been claimed these sorts of practices have become widespread in FBI "counter-terrorism" cases targeting Muslims in the 2009 Bronx terrorism plot and others.[113][114][115][116]

Authors, such as Ward Churchill, Rex Weyler, and Peter Matthiessen allege that the federal government intended to acquire uranium deposits on the Lakota tribe's reservation land, and that this motivated a larger government conspiracy against AIM activists on the Pine Ridge reservation.[69][70][117][118][119] Others believe COINTELPRO continues and similar actions are being taken against activist groups.[119][120][121] Caroline Woidat says that, with respect to Native Americans, COINTELPRO should be understood within a historical context in which "Native Americans have been viewed and have viewed the world themselves through the lens of conspiracy theory." [119] Other authors argue that while some conspiracy theories related to COINTELPRO are unfounded, the issue of ongoing government surveillance and repression is real.[122][123]

FBI Agent Richard G. Held is known to have increased FBI support for the Guardians of the Oglala Nation (GOON) squads, who were a private paramilitary group established in 1972 by the elected tribal chairman, Dick Wilson, under authority of the Oglala Sioux. AIM accused GOONs of involvement in 300 assaults and 64 homicides of political opponents. Despite this, The Bureau rarely

investigated them and instead used its resources overwhelmingly to prosecute AIM.[124] In 2000, the FBI released a report regarding these alleged unsolved violent deaths on Pine Ridge reservation and accounted for most of the deaths and disputed the claims of unsolved murders. The report stated that only four deaths were unsolved and that some deaths were not murders.[125][126]

A lawsuit filed by Dhoruba bin-Wahad, a former member of the Black Panther Party, revealed the existence of multiple programs similar to COINTELPRO including "Newkill" (New York Police Killings), Chesrob (a program focused on Panther Assata Shakur), and PRISACTS (The Prison Activists Surveillance Program), a program that focused on "neutralizing" political activists who were already in prison, many of whom (like bin-Wahad) had been targeted by COINTELPRO.[127][128]

In April 2018, the Atlanta Black Star characterized the FBI as still engaging in COINTELPRO behavior by surveilling the Black Lives Matter movement. Internal documents dated as late as 2017 showed that the FBI had surveilled the movement.[129] In 2014, the FBI tracked a Black Lives Matter activist using surveillance tactics which The Intercept found "reminiscent of a rich American history of targeting black Americans," including COINTELPRO.[130] This practice, along with the imprisonment of black activists for their views, has been associated with the new FBI designation of "Black Identity Extremists".[131][132]

Defending Rights & Dissent, a civil liberties group, cataloged known instances of First Amendment abuses and political surveillance by the FBI since 2010. The organization found that the FBI devoted disproportionate resources to spy on peaceful left-leaning civil society groups, including Occupy Wall Street, economic justice advocates, racial justice movements, environmentalists, Abolish ICE, and various anti-war movements.[133][134]

In December 2012, the FBI released redacted documents in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF). Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, the executive director of PCJF, said the documents showed that FBI counterterrorism agents had monitored the Occupy movement from its inception in August 2011 and that the FBI acted improperly by collecting "information on people's free-speech actions" and entering it into "unregulated databases, a vast storehouse of information widely disseminated to a range of law-enforcement and, apparently, private entities" (see Domestic Security Alliance Council).[135] The FBI also communicated with the New York Stock Exchange, banks, private businesses and state and local police forces about the movement.[136] In 2014, the PCJF obtained an additional 4,000 pages of unclassified documents through a Freedom of Information Act request, showing "details of the scrutiny of the Occupy protests in 2011 and 2012 by law enforcement officers, federal officials, security contractors and others." [137]

In October 2020, Katie Reiter, chief of staff to Michigan state Senator Rosemary Bayer, had an FBI task force come to her house and aggressively question her about a draft bill she had recently discussed which would have limited the use of tear gas against protesters. Reiter had discussed the proposed ban on tear gas on a private 90-minute Zoom call with Bayer and a handful of other staffers. Reiter says the two officers refused to answer any questions about how they became aware of her private meeting. The Intercept reported about the incident: "Reiter said that the FBI's visit left her confused and fearful. 'It has impacted my sleep, it has caused me quite a bit of anxiety,' she said. 'And it has certainly impacted how we talk. I try not to let it, I'll just be like, 'No, we're going to talk about this.' But it's in my mind all the time.'" A spokesperson for the FBI declined to comment on the record, as did a spokesperson for Zoom.[138]

Notable people targeted

Main page: Category:COINTELPRO targets

Ralph Abernathy[citation needed]

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Muhammad Ali[57]

James Baldwin[139]
Judi Bari[citation needed]
Dhoruba bin-Wahad
H. Rap Brown[140]
Bunchy Carter
Eldridge Cleaver
Marshall Conway[citation needed]
Jeff Fort[citation needed]
Howard Bruce Franklin[citation needed]
Fred Hampton
Tom Hayden[citation needed]
Ernest Hemingway[citation needed]
Abbie Hoffman
Ericka Huggins
Jose Cha Cha Jimenez[citation needed]
Muhammad Kenyatta
Clark Kerr[citation needed]
Martin Luther King Jr.
Stanley Levison
Viola Liuzzo
Malcolm X[141]
Jessica Mitford[citation needed]
Huey P. Newton
Geronimo Pratt
Filiberto Ojeda Ríos[citation needed]
Mario Savio
Jean Seberg
Assata Shakur
Morris Starsky
John Trudell[citation needed]
Kwame Ture
See also
1971, 2014 documentary film on the break-in that first exposed COINTELPRO
Active measures
Agent provocateur
Arctic Frost investigation
All Power to the People, film documentary by Lee Lew-Lee 1996
Christopher Pyle § Government Service, Pyle revealed a similar program by the
U.S. Army
Cold War
Denial and deception
Mark Felt, also known as Deep Throat served as chief inspector of COINTELPRO
field operations
Laird v. Tatum
Mass surveillance in the United States
MAINWAY, a database of telephone metadata used by the NSA
Operation Gladio
Operation Mockingbird
Patriot Act
PROFUNC, a similar classified Canadian program which focused primarily on
communists and crypto-communists
Red Squad, police intelligence/anti-dissident units which were later operated
under COINTELPRO
State terrorism
Surveillance abuse
Thermcon
Zersetzung
References

Hoerl, Kristen; Ortiz, Erin (November 2015). "Organizational Secrecy and the
FBI's COINTELPRO-Black Nationalist Hate Groups Program, 1967-1971". *Management
Communication Quarterly*. 29 (4): 590-615. doi:10.1177/0893318915597302.

Retrieved May 6, 2025.

"I. Introduction and Summary" (PDF). *Intelligence Activities and the Rights of
Americans - Church Committee final report*. II. United States Senate. April 26,

1976. p. 10. Archived (PDF) from the original on April 18, 2014. Retrieved July 15, 2014.

Wolf, Paul (1 September 2001). COINTELPRO: The Untold American Story. World Conference Against Racism. Durbin, South Africa. p. 11. Archived from the original on 9 March 2016. Retrieved 14 February 2018.

Jalon, Allan M. (March 8, 2006). "A break-in to end all break-ins". The Los Angeles Times. Archived from the original on December 3, 2013. Retrieved July 15, 2014.

The Dangers of Domestic Spying by Federal Law Enforcement (PDF) (Report). American Civil Liberties Union. 2002. Archived (PDF) from the original on February 5, 2018. Retrieved November 14, 2017.

Morris, Rose (2019). Chronicle of the Seventh Son Black Panther Mark Clark. Rose Morris. pp. 209–214. ISBN 978-1733581714.

Jeffreys-Jones, Rhodri (2008) [2007]. The FBI: A History. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. p. 189. ISBN 978-0-300-14284-6. OCLC 223872966.

"The Women's Liberation Movement and COINTELPRO" (PDF). Freedom Archives. Archived (PDF) from the original on July 24, 2015.

Salper, Roberta (2008). "U.S. Government Surveillance and the Women's Liberation Movement, 1968–1973: A Case Study". *Feminist Studies*. 34 (3): 431–455. JSTOR 20459215. Retrieved July 12, 2022.

Weiner 2012, p. 195.

<https://assets.cengage.com/gale/psm/9500127C.pdf> [bare URL PDF]

Bosi, Lorenzo; Giugni, Marco; Uba, Katrin, eds. (2016). The Consequences of Social Movements. Cambridge University Press. p. 66. ISBN 978-1107539211.

Newton, Michael (2014). White Robes and Burning Crosses: A History of the Ku Klux Klan from 1866. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland. p. 146. ISBN 978-0-7864-7774-6. OCLC 877370955.

Cunningham, David (2003). "Understanding State Responses to Left- versus Right-Wing Threats: The FBI's Repression of the New Left and the Ku Klux Klan". *Social Science History*. 27 (3): 327–370. doi:10.1017/S0145553200012566.

Wolf, Paul. "Groups targeted by COINTELPRO". Archived from the original on September 10, 2012.

Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, Book III: Supplementary Detailed Staff Reports on Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans (PDF) (Final Report). 1976. S. Rep. No. 94-755. Archived (PDF) from the original on April 18, 2014. Retrieved November 17, 2017.

Walby, Kevin; Monaghan, Jeffery (2016). "Private Eyes and Public Order: Policing and Surveillance in the Suppression of Animal Rights Activists in Canada". In Bezanson, Kate; Webber, Michelle (eds.). *Rethinking Society in the 21st Century* (4th ed.). Toronto: Canadian Scholars. p. 148, note 1. ISBN 978-1-55130-936-1. OCLC 1002804017.

Orr, Martin (2010). "The Failure of Neoliberal Globalization and the End of Empire". In Berberoglu, Berch (ed.). *Globalization in the 21st Century: Labor, Capital, and the State on a World Scale*. Springer. p. 182. ISBN 978-0-230-10639-0. OCLC 700167013.

Swearingen, M. Wesley (1995). FBI Secrets: An Agent's Expose. Boston: South End Press. ISBN 978-0-89608-502-2. OCLC 31330305. [Special Agent Gregg York:] We expected about twenty Panthers to be in the apartment when the police raided the place. Only two of those black nigger fuckers were killed, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

"Murder of Fred Hampton" (PDF). It's About Time – Black Panther Party Legacy & Alumni. Archived (PDF) from the original on February 15, 2010. Retrieved July 19, 2009.

Corrigan, Lisa M. (2016). Prison Power: How Prison Influenced the Movement for Black Liberation. University Press of Mississippi. pp. 86–88. ISBN 978-1496809100.

Cleaver, Kathleen (1998). "Mobilizing for Mumia Abu-Jamal in Paris". *Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities*. 10 (2). ISSN 1041-6374. S2CID 141121370. Archived from the original on April 6, 2019. Retrieved February 25, 2018.

On', Shaba (22 April 1996). "25th Ann. of Panther 21 Acquittal: Program in NYC" (Press release). Archived from the original on 28 December 2017. Retrieved 5 February 2018 – via Hartford Web Publishing.

Ogbar, Jeffrey O. G. (January 16, 2017). "The FBI's War on Civil Rights Leaders". The Daily Beast. Archived from the original on February 12, 2018. Retrieved February 25, 2018. Hundreds of Panthers were stopped, harassed and arrested by the police across the country. Hoover explained the 'purpose of counterintelligence action is to disrupt the BPP and it is immaterial whether facts exist to substantiate the charge'. The effectiveness of COINTELPRO was overwhelming. Many organizations were destabilized with arrests, raids, break-ins, and killings.

"COINTELPRO Revisited - Spying & Disruption - In Black & White: The F.B.I. Papers". What Really Happened. Archived from the original on May 16, 2008. Retrieved June 23, 2008.

"A Huey P. Newton Story - Actions - COINTELPRO". PBS. Archived from the original on May 15, 2011. Retrieved June 23, 2008.

Weiner 2012, p. 196: "Sullivan would become Hoover's field marshal in matters of national security, chief of FBI intelligence, and commandant of COINTELPRO. In that top secret and tightly compartmentalized world, an FBI inside of the FBI, Sullivan served as the executor of Hoover's most clandestine and recondite demands."

Weiner 2012, p. 233: "RFK knew much more about this surveillance than he ever admitted. He personally renewed his authorization for the taps on Levison's office, and he approved Hoover's request to tap Levison's home telephone, where King called late at night several times a week."

Hersh 2007, p. 372.

Hersh 2007, pp. 372-374.

"FBI Records: The Vault - COINTELPRO". Retrieved February 19, 2024.

Weiner 2012, p. 198: "On October 2, 1956, Hoover stepped up the FBI's long-standing surveillance of black civil rights activists. He sent a COINTELPRO memo to the field, warning that the Communist Party was seeking to infiltrate the movement."

Beito, David T.; Beito, Linda Royster (2018). T.R.M. Howard: Doctor, Entrepreneur, Civil Rights Pioneer (First ed.). Oakland: Institute. pp. 146-148. ISBN 978-1-59813-312-7.

Weiner 2012, p. 200.

Gage, Beverly (November 11, 2014). "What an Uncensored Letter to M. L. K. Reveals". The New York Times. Archived from the original on January 7, 2015. Retrieved January 9, 2015.

Weiner 2012, p. 235.

Weiner 2012, p. 236: "The bugs got quick results. When King traveled, as he did constantly in the ensuing weeks, to Washington, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, and Honolulu, the Bureau planted hidden microphones in his hotel rooms. The FBI placed a total of eight wiretaps and sixteen bugs on King."

Branch, Taylor (1999). Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-1965. Simon & Schuster. pp. 524-529. ISBN 978-1-4165-5870-5. OCLC 933467815 - via Google Books.

Rowan, Carl T. (1991). Breaking Barriers: A Memoir (1st ed.). Boston: Little, Brown. p. 260. ISBN 978-0-316-75977-9. OCLC 22110131.

Churchill, Ward; Vander Wall, Jim (2002) [1990]. The COINTELPRO Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Dissent in the United States. South End Press. ISBN 978-0-89608-648-7.

Branch 1999, pp. 527-529.

Church, Frank (April 23, 1976), "Church Committee Book III", Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Case Study, Church Committee

Branch 1999, p. 243.

Kane, Gregory (14 May 2000). "FBI should acknowledge complicity in the assassination of Malcolm X". Baltimore Sun. Archived from the original on 24 May 2015. Retrieved 26 May 2015.

Touré (17 June 2011). "Malcolm X: Criminal, Minister, Humanist, Martyr". Sunday Book Review. The New York Times. p. BR18. Archived from the original on 29 August 2017. Retrieved 26 February 2017.

Douglass, James W. (29 March 2006). The Converging Martyrdom of Malcolm and Martin. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture. Princeton Theological Seminary. Archived from the original on 25 January 2015. Retrieved 17 October 2014.

"Guide to the Microfilm Edition of FBI Surveillance Files: Black Extremist Organizations, Part 1" (PDF). Lexis-Nexis. Archived from the original (PDF) on

June 3, 2013. Retrieved October 7, 2014.

Weiner 2012, p. 271.

Hoover, J. Edgar. "The FBI Sets Goals for COINTELPRO". HERB: Resources for Teachers. City University of New York. Archived from the original on October 12, 2014. Retrieved October 7, 2014.

Warden, Rob (February 10, 1976). "Hoover Rated Carmichael As 'Black Messiah'" (PDF). Chicago Daily News. Archived (PDF) from the original on March 4, 2016. Retrieved October 8, 2014 – via Harold Weisberg Archive, Hood College.

Churchill, Ward; Vander Wall, Jim (1990). The COINTELPRO Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Domestic Dissent. Boston: South End Press. ISBN 978-0896083608. OCLC 21908953.

Weiner 2012, p. 272: "Some 1,500 army intelligence officers in civilian clothing undertook the surveillance of some 100,000 American citizens. Army intelligence shared all their reports over the next three years. The CIA tracked antiwar leaders and black militants who traveled overseas, and it reported back to the FBI. The FBI, in turn, shared thousands of selected files on Americans with army intelligence and the CIA. All three intelligence services sent the names of Americans to the National Security Agency for inclusion on a global watch list; the NSA relayed back to the FBI hundreds of transcripts of intercepted telephone calls to and from suspect Americans."

McKnight 1998, pp. 26–28: "By March the Hoover Bureau's campaign against King was virtually on a total war footing. In a March 21 'urgent' teletype, Hoover urged all field offices involved in the POCAM project to exploit every tactic in the bureau's arsenal of covert political warfare to bring down King and the SCLC."

"FBI leadership claimed Bureau was 'almost powerless' against KKK, despite making up one-fifth of its membership". Muckrock. December 8, 2017. Archived from the original on January 24, 2019. Retrieved December 8, 2018.

See, for example, *Hobson v. Wilson*, Archived 2017-04-10 at the Wayback Machine, 737 F.2d 1 (1984); *Rugiero v. U.S. Department of Justice*, Archived 2017-04-10 at the Wayback Machine, 257 F.3d 534, 546 (2001).

Hamilton, Johanna (18 May 2015). "1971: Citizens Who Exposed COINTELPRO". PBS: Independent Lens. Archived from the original on 24 September 2015. Retrieved 25 August 2017.

Medsker, Betty (June 6, 2016). "In 1971, Muhammad Ali Helped Undermine the FBI's Illegal Spying on Americans". The Intercept. Archived from the original on April 27, 2017. Retrieved April 17, 2017.

Cassidy, Mike; Miller, Will (May 26, 1999). "A Short History of FBI COINTELPRO". Albion Monitor. Wayward Press. Archived from the original on September 28, 2007. Retrieved July 13, 2007.

Weiner 2012, p. 293.

Davis, Joshua Clark (2025). *Police Against the Movement: The Sabotage of the Civil Rights Struggle and the Activists Who Fought Back*. Princeton University Press. p. 284.

Deflam, Mathieu (2008). *Surveillance and governance: crime control and beyond*. Emerald Publishing Group. p. 182. ISBN 978-0-7623-1416-4. Archived from the original on April 5, 2019. Retrieved December 29, 2017.

Deflam, Mathieu (2008). *Surveillance and governance: crime control and beyond*. Emerald Publishing Group. pp. 184–185. ISBN 978-0-7623-1416-4. Archived from the original on April 5, 2019. Retrieved December 29, 2017.

"Noam Chomsky v Andrew Marr: 'The Big Idea' Part 2". August 27, 2006. Retrieved February 19, 2024 – via www.youtube.com.

Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (Book II, Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans) (PDF). 1976. p. 213.

Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (Book II, Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans) (PDF). 1976. p. 9.

Various Church Committee reports reproduced online at ICDC: Final Report, 2A Archived 2006-10-19 at the Wayback Machine; Final Report, 2Cb Archived 2005-04-07 at the Wayback Machine; Final Report, 3A Archived 2011-11-13 at the Wayback Machine; Final Report, 3G Archived 2005-04-07 at the Wayback Machine. Various COINTELPRO documents reproduced online at ICDC: CPUSA Archived 2008-02-11 at the Wayback Machine; SWP Archived 2006-12-10 at the Wayback Machine; Black

Nationalist Archived 2008-04-22 at the Wayback Machine; White Hate Archived 2008-02-28 at the Wayback Machine; New Left Archived 2008-02-14 at the Wayback Machine; Puerto Rico .

Blackstock, Nelson (1975). COINTELPRO: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom. New York: Pathfinder. p. 111. ISBN 0-87348-877-6. OCLC 46439435.

Gelbspan, Ross. (1991) Break-Ins, Death Threats, and the FBI: The Covert War Against the Central America Movement, Boston: South End Press.

Churchill & Vander Wall 1990, pp. xii, 303

Churchill, Ward; and James Vander Wall. Agents of Repression: The FBI's Secret Wars against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement, 1988, Boston, South End Press.

Pickett, Karen. "Earth First! Takes the FBI to Court: Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's Case Heard after 12 Years, Archived 2009-11-15 at the Wayback Machine, Earth First Journal, no date.

Hoffman, Hank (October 1, 2001). "To the Extreme". In These Times. ISSN 0160-5992. Archived from the original on December 15, 2018. Retrieved December 11, 2018.

Williams, Jakobi (2013). From the Bullet to the Ballot: The Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Racial Coalition Politics in Chicago. UNC Press Books. p. 10. ISBN 978-1469608167.

Michael Newton. Famous Assassinations in World History: An Encyclopedia Archived 2017-01-13 at the Wayback Machine. ABC-CLIO, p. 205. ISBN 1610692853

"The FBI'S Covert Action Program to Destroy the Black Panther Party". Archived from the original on January 13, 2013. Retrieved April 20, 2005.

Ward Churchill (2002), Agents of Repression (Agents of Repression: The FBI's Secret Wars Against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement ed.), South End Press, ISBN 978-0896086463, OCLC 50985124, OL 25433596M, 0896086461

"Assassination Archive and Research Center". Archived from the original on September 18, 2014. Retrieved May 5, 2015.

Bin Wahad, Dhoruba; Abu-Jamal, Mumia; Shakur, Assata (1993). Still Black, Still Strong. Semiotext(e). pp. 18-19. ISBN 978-0936756745.

Brown, Elaine (1992). A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story. New York: Doubleday. pp. 204-206. ISBN 978-0385471077.

Paul Wolf, "COINTELPRO" Archived 2009-09-27 at the Wayback Machine, ICDC "Former Black Panther freed after 27 years in jail". CNN. Archived from the original on April 15, 2009. Retrieved April 30, 2010.

"In re Pratt, 82 Cal". Retrieved February 19, 2024.

Cockburn, Alexander; St. Clair, Jeffrey (1998). Whiteout: The CIA, Drugs and the Press. Verso. p. 69. ISBN 978-1-85984-139-6. Archived from the original on December 28, 2015. Retrieved December 12, 2015.

FBI document, 19 July 1966, DeLoach to Sullivan re: "Black Bag" Jobs.

Supplementary Detailed Staff Reports on Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans, Book III: Warrantless Surreptitious Entries: FBI "Black Bag" Break-Ins and Microphone Installations (Report). Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities United States Senate. April 23, 1976. Archived from the original on February 12, 2005.

FBI document, 27 May 1969, "Director FBI to SAC San Francisco", available at the FBI reading room.

FBI document, 16 September 1970, Director FBI to SAC's in Baltimore, Detroit, Los Angeles, New Haven, San Francisco, and Washington Field Office. Available at the FBI reading room.

Britt, Donna. "A white mother went to Alabama to fight for civil rights. The Klan killed her for it". washingtonpost.com. Archived from the original on June 16, 2020. Retrieved June 16, 2020.

May, Gary (2005). The Informant: The FBI, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Murder of Viola Liuzzo. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN 978-0-300-18413-6. OCLC 57549917.

"Jonathan Yardley". The Washington Post. Archived from the original on May 4, 2011. Retrieved April 30, 2010.

Giannino, Joanne. "Viola Liuzzo". Dictionary of Unitarian & Universalist Biography. Archived from the original on December 27, 2008. Retrieved September 29, 2008.

Houston, Kay. "The Detroit housewife who moved a nation toward racial justice".

The Detroit News, Rearview Mirror. Archived from the original on April 27, 1999. "Uncommon Courage: The Viola Liuzzo Story". Archived from the original on February 23, 2006.

Stanton, Mary (2000). *From Selma to Sorrow: The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo*. University of Georgia Press. p. 190.

Coleman, Ken (December 3, 2021). "On this day in 1965: KKK members are convicted of killing civil rights activist". *Michigan Advance*. Retrieved July 24, 2024.

Holles, Everett R. (June 27, 1975). "A.C.L.U. Says FBI Funded 'Army' to Terrorize Antiwar Protesters". *The New York Times (Newspaper)*. New York: 4. Archived from the original on July 27, 2019. Retrieved July 28, 2019 – via The New York Times Archives. from the original on 28 July 2019. Original scan available.

"1972". Archived from the original on May 14, 2007. Retrieved January 26, 2009.

Kowalewski, David (2003). "Vigilantism". *International Handbook of Violence Research*. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands. pp. 339–349. doi:10.1007/978-0-306-48039-3_18. ISBN 9780306480393.

Andrews, Bruce (1980). "Privacy and the protection of national security". In Bier, William Christian (ed.). *Privacy, a Vanishing Value?*. Fordham University Press. ISBN 9780823210442 – via Google Books.

Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (Book II, Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans) (PDF). 1976. p. 5.

Radden Keefe, Patrick (February 2, 2006). "Tapped Out Why Congress won't get through to the NSA". *Slate*. Archived from the original on February 9, 2006. Retrieved May 11, 2006.

Schultz, Bud (2001). *The Price of Dissent: Testimonies to Political Repression in America*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-22402-7. OCLC 45248227. Although the FBI officially discontinued COINTELPRO immediately after the Pennsylvania disclosures 'for security reasons,' when pressed by the Senate committee, the bureau acknowledged two new instances of 'Cointelpro-type' operations. The committee was left to discover a third, apparently illegal operation on its own.

Newton, Michael (2012). *The FBI Encyclopedia*. McFarland. pp. 143–146. ISBN 978-1476604176.

Theoharis, Athan G. (1999). *The FBI: A Comprehensive Reference Guide*. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press. ISBN 0-585-09871-9. OCLC 42330983. More recent controversies have focused on the adequacy of recent restrictions on the Bureau's domestic intelligence operations. Disclosures of the 1970s that FBI agents continued to conduct break-ins, and of the 1980s that the FBI targeted CISPES, again brought forth accusations of FBI abuses of power—and raised questions of whether reforms of the 1970s had successfully exorcised the ghost of FBI Director Hoover.

Hastedt, Glenn P. (2011). *Spies, Wiretaps, and Secret Operations: An Encyclopedia of American Espionage*. ABC-CLIO. p. 180. ISBN 978-1851098071.

Associated Press, "FBI tracked journalist for over 20 years". *Toronto Star*. November 7, 2008. Archived from the original on December 11, 2008. Retrieved November 23, 2008.

Schultz, Bud (2001). *The Price of Dissent: Testimonies to Political Repression in America*. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 399. ISBN 0-520-22402-7. OCLC 45248227. The problem persists after Hoover...."The record before this court," Federal Magistrate Joan Lefkow stated in 1991, "shows that despite regulations, orders and consent decrees prohibiting such activities, the FBI had continued to collect information concerning only the exercise of free speech.

Mosedale, Mike (February 16, 2000). "Bury My Heart". *City Pages*. Vol. 21, no. 1002.

Weiner, Tim (2013). *Enemies: A History of the FBI*. Random House Publishing Group. pp. 439–441. ISBN 978-0812979237.

"UN General Assembly Committee urges self-determination for Puerto Rico". *UN News*. June 13, 2006. Archived from the original on June 12, 2018. Retrieved June 7, 2018.

"Role of FBI informant in eco-terrorism case probed after documents hint at entrapment". *The Guardian*. Archived from the original on January 23, 2019. Retrieved January 24, 2019.

Medsger, Betty (2014). *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret*

FBI. Vintage. ISBN 978-0804173667.

"Fake terror plots, paid informants: the tactics of FBI 'entrapment' questioned". The Guardian. Archived from the original on January 23, 2019. Retrieved January 24, 2019.

"How a suicidal pizza man found himself ensnared in an FBI terror sting". CNN. November 29, 2017. Archived from the original on January 23, 2019. Retrieved January 24, 2019.

"Attorney: FBI entrapped terror suspect". The Detroit News. Archived from the original on January 23, 2019. Retrieved January 24, 2019.

"The Would-Be Terrorist vs. the FBI". GQ. Archived from the original on January 23, 2019. Retrieved January 24, 2019.

Weyler, Rex (1982). *Blood of the Land: The Government and Corporate War Against First Nations*. New York: Vintage Books. ISBN 0-394-71732-5. OCLC 9371425.

Matthiessen, Peter (1983). *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*. New York: Penguin Books. ISBN 0-14-014456-0. OCLC 25313752.

Woidat, Caroline M. (2006). "The Truth Is on the Reservation: American Indians and Conspiracy Culture". *The Journal of American Culture*. 29 (4): 454-467. doi:10.1111/j.1542-734X.2006.00422.x.

McQuinn, Jason (Winter 1996). "Conspiracy Theory vs Alternative Journalism". *Alternative Press Review*. 2 (3).

Horowitz, David. "Johnnie's Other O.J.", *Front Page Magazine.com*, September 1, 1997.

Berlet, Chip (1998). "The X-Files Movie: Facilitating Fanciful Fun, or Fueling Fear and Fascism?". *PublicEye.org*. Archived from the original on June 11, 2007. Retrieved January 19, 2020.

Berlet, Chip; Lyons, Matthew N. (1998). "One key to litigating against government prosecution of dissidents: Understanding the underlying assumptions". *PublicEye.org*. Archived from the original on February 6, 2008. Retrieved January 19, 2020.

Newton, Michael (2012). *The FBI Encyclopedia*. McFarland. pp. 143-145. ISBN 978-1476604176. Archived from the original on April 5, 2019. Retrieved June 13, 2018.

Melmer, David (July 19, 2000). "Unsolved deaths debunked by FBI Case by case examination puts some rumors to rest". *Indian Country Today*. Archived from the original on May 6, 2006. Retrieved October 29, 2007.

staff (May 2000). "Accounting For Native American Deaths, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota". *Federal Bureau of Investigation Minneapolis Division*. Archived from the original on June 25, 2007. Retrieved October 29, 2007.

Bin Wahad, Dhoruba; Abu-Jamal, Mumia; Shakur, Assata (1993). Fletcher, Jim; Jones, Tanaquil; Lotringer, Sylvère (eds.). *Still Black, still strong: survivors of the U.S. war against Black revolutionaries*. Semiotexte active agents series. New York: Semiotexte. ISBN 978-0-936756-74-5.

Burton, Orisanmi (2023). *Tip of the spear: black radicalism, prison repression, and the long attica revolt*. Oakland, California: University of California Press. ISBN 978-0-520-39633-3.

"COINTELPRO Continues As Documents Reveal FBI Surveillance of Black Lives Matter". *Atlanta Black Star*. March 27, 2018. Archived from the original on May 31, 2018. Retrieved May 26, 2018.

Joseph, George; Hussain, Murtaza (March 19, 2018). "FBI Tracked an Activist Involved With Black Lives Matter as They Travelled Across the U.S., Documents Show". *The Intercept*. Archived from the original on March 20, 2018. Retrieved January 19, 2020.

"US judge orders release of 'first Black Identity Extremist'". *Al Jazeera*. Archived from the original on June 10, 2018. Retrieved June 10, 2018.

"The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'". *Foreign Policy*. Archived from the original on June 9, 2018. Retrieved June 10, 2018.

Gibbons, Chip (October 17, 2019). "Still Spying on Dissent". *Defending Rights & Dissent*. Archived from the original on November 5, 2019. Retrieved November 5, 2019.

Speri, Alice (October 22, 2019). "The FBI Has a Long History of Treating Political Dissent as Terrorism". *The Intercept*. Archived from the original on November 5, 2019. Retrieved November 5, 2019.

Michael S. Schmidt & Colin Moynihan, *F.B.I. Counterterrorism Agents Monitored*

Occupy Movement, Records Show, New York Times (December 24, 2012).

"The FBI vs. Occupy: Secret Docs Reveal "Counterterrorism" Monitoring of OWS from Its Earliest Days". Democracy Now!. December 27, 2012. Retrieved April 30, 2021.

Government Surveillance of the Occupy Protests, New York Times (May 22, 2014).

Speri, Alice; Biddle, Sam (January 4, 2021). "FBI Questioned a Michigan Senate Staffer After Zoom Call About Banning Tear Gas". The Intercept. Retrieved May 28, 2021.

Maxwell, William J. (2015). *F.B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 978-1400852062.

"Rethinking H. Rap Brown and Black Power - AAIHS". September 29, 2018. Retrieved November 18, 2019.

"Malcolm X Assassination & FBI COINTELPRO". NOI.org Official Website. September 11, 2013. Archived from the original on November 3, 2019. Retrieved November 18, 2019.

Sources

Hersh, Burton (2007). *Bobby and J. Edgar: The Historic Face-Off Between the Kennedys and J. Edgar Hoover That Transformed America*. Basic Books. ISBN 978-0-7867-1982-2. OCLC 493616276.

McKnight, Gerald (1998). *The Last Crusade: Martin Luther King, Jr., the FBI, and the Poor People's Campaign*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. ISBN 978-0-8133-3384-7. OCLC 925217314.

Weiner, Tim (2012). *Enemies: A History of the FBI* (1st ed.). New York: Random House. ISBN 978-1-4000-6748-0. OCLC 1001918388.

Further reading

Books

Blackstock, Nelson (1988). *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*. Pathfinder Press. ISBN 978-0-87348-877-8.

Carson, Clayborne; Gallen, David, eds. (1991). *Malcolm X: The FBI File*. Carroll & Graf Publishers. ISBN 978-0-88184-758-1.

Churchill, Ward; Vander Wall, Jim (2002) [1988]. *Agents of Repression: The FBI's Secret Wars Against The Black Panther Party and The American Indian Movement*. South End Press. ISBN 978-0-89608-646-3.

Churchill, Ward; Vander Wall, Jim (2002) [1990]. *The COINTELPRO Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Dissent in the United States*. South End Press. ISBN 978-0-89608-648-7.

Cunningham, David (2004). *There's Something Happening Here: The New Left, The Klan, and FBI Counterintelligence*. University of California Press. ISBN 978-0-520-23997-5.

Davis, James Kirkpatrick (1997). *Assault on the Left*. Praeger Trade. ISBN 978-0-275-95455-0.

Davis, Joshua Clark (2025). *Police Against the Movement: The Sabotage of the Civil Rights Movement and the Activists Who Fought Back*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 978-0-691-23883-8.

Garrow, David (2006). *The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr. (Revised ed.)*. Yale University Press. ISBN 978-0-300-08731-4.

Glick, Brian (1989). *War at Home: Covert Action Against U.S. Activists and What We Can Do About It*. South End Press. ISBN 978-0-89608-349-3.

Medsker, Betty (2014). *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI*. Vintage. ISBN 978-0804173667.

Halperin, Morton; Berman, Jerry; Borosage, Robert; Marwick, Christine (1976). *The Lawless State: The Crimes Of The U.S. Intelligence Agencies*. ISBN 978-0-14-004386-0.

Olsen, Jack (2000). *Last Man Standing: The Tragedy and Triumph of Geronimo Pratt*. Doubleday. ISBN 978-0-385-49367-3.

Perkus, Cathy (1976). *Cointelpro*. Vintage.

Theoharis, Athan, *Spying on Americans: Political Surveillance from Hoover to the Huston Plan* (Temple University Press, 1978).

Articles

Drabble, John (Winter 2004). "The FBI, COINTELPRO-WHITE HATE and the Decline of Ku Klux Klan Organizations in Mississippi, 1964-1971". *Journal of Mississippi History*. 66 (4).

Drabble, John (January 2008). "The FBI, COINTELPRO-WHITE HATE and the Decline Ku

Klux Klan Organizations in Alabama, 1964-1971". Alabama Review. 61 (1): 3-47. doi:10.1353/ala.2008.0016. S2CID 159498779.

Drabble, John (August 2004). "'To Preserve the Domestic Tranquility': The FBI, COINTELPRO-WHITE HATE, and Political Discourse, 1964-1971". Journal of American Studies. 38 (3): 297-328. doi:10.1017/S002187580400845X. JSTOR 27557518. S2CID 145405009.

Drabble, John (Fall 2007). "From White Supremacy to White Power: The FBI's COINTELPRO-WHITE HATE Operation and the 'Nazification' of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s". American Studies. 48 (3): 49-74. doi:10.1353/ams.0.0007. JSTOR 40644149. S2CID 145352378.

Drabble, John (2008). "Fighting Black Power-New Left coalitions: Covert FBI media campaigns and American cultural discourse, 1967-1971". European Journal of American Culture. 27 (2): 65-91. doi:10.1386/ejac.27.2.65_1.

Wolfe-Rocca, Ursula (2016). "Why We Should Teach About the FBI's War on the Civil Rights Movement". Zinn Education Project.

Lessons

Wolfe-Rocca, Ursula. "COINTELPRO: Teaching the FBI's War on the Black Freedom Movement", Zinn Education Project.

FBI files

Files on FBI's website

FBI COINTELPRO files on Espionage Program

FBI COINTELPRO file on Hoodwink

FBI COINTELPRO files on Puerto Rican Groups

FBI COINTELPRO files on Cuban Matters

FBI COINTELPRO files on the New Left

FBI COINTELPRO files on the Socialist Workers Party

FBI COINTELPRO files on Black Extremist Groups

FBI COINTELPRO files on White Hate Groups

FBI COINTELPRO files Las Vegas

FBI COINTELPRO files Miami

FBI COINTELPRO files Baltimore

FBI COINTELPRO files Alexandria

FBI COINTELPRO files Charlotte

FBI COINTELPRO files Indianapolis

U.S. government reports

U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Internal Security. Hearings on Domestic Intelligence Operations for Internal Security Purposes. 93rd Cong., 2d sess, 1974.

U.S. Congress. House. Select Committee on Intelligence. Hearings on Domestic Intelligence Programs. 94th Cong., 1st sess, 1975.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Government Operations. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Hearings on Riots, Civil and Criminal Disorders. 90th Cong., 1st sess. - 91st Cong., 2d sess, 1967-1970.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Hearings - The National Security Agency and Fourth Amendment Rights. Vol. 6. 94th Cong., 1st sess, 1975.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Hearings - Federal Bureau of Investigation. Vol. 6. 94th Cong., 1st sess, 1975.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Final Report - Book II, Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans. 94th Cong., 2d sess, 1976.

U.S. Congress. Senate. Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Final Report - Book III, Supplementary Detailed Staff Reports on Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans. 94th Cong., 2d sess, 1976.

Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. United States Senate, 94th Congress, 2nd Session, April 26 (legislative day, April 14), 1976. [AKA "Church Committee Report"]. Archived at Archive.org by the Boston Public Library

Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities: Intelligence Reports and the Rights of Americans: Book II. April 24, 1976.

vte

Federal Bureau of Investigation

vte

Espionage

Categories: History of civil rights in the United StatesHistory of law enforcement in the United StatesHistory of racism in the United StatesPropaganda in the United StatesPolitical repression in the United StatesPsychological warfareSurveillance scandalsPolitical controversies in the United StatesPolitical imprisonment in the United StatesRace-related controversies in the United StatesAfrican-American-related controversiesCovert operationsAmerican secret government programsFederal Bureau of Investigation operationsCOINTELPRO targetsCounterintelligenceCode namesFederal Bureau of Investigation controversiesHuman rights abuses in the United StatesFederal Bureau of Investigation misconductAnti-communism in the United States

This page was last edited on 24 December 2025, at 07:14 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Privacy policyAbout WikipediaDisclaimersContact WikipediaLegal & safety contactsCode of ConductDevelopersStatisticsCookie statementMobile view

Wikimedia Foundation

Powered by MediaWiki

Skip to main content

Here is a list of some incidents in which government agents confiscated photographs, video, or other UFO evidence. : r/ufo

Open menu

r/ufo

Search in r/ufo

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/ufo icon

Go to ufo

r/ufo

•

6y ago

MKULTRA_Escapee

Here is a list of some incidents in which government agents confiscated photographs, video, or other UFO evidence.

Although this list is not exhaustive since I have read such stories countless times, I think there is enough material here to firmly establish that the "Men in Black" in fact exist. I would define the Men in Black as an official or unofficial group of government agents that confiscate as much of the best UFO evidence as they can. You can find a lot more of these with a search engine and the right keywords.

Perhaps the most insane example is Roswell 1947 in which civilians and radio show hosts were threatened with death or loss of employment, and UFO crash debris was switched out with weather balloon wreckage. This is backed up by tons of first hand testimony from people directly involved, but I'm sure most here are already aware of this. The rest of this post will be lesser-known incidents that follow the same modus operandi.

Former Phoenix City Councilwoman, Frances Barwood, discusses her unexpected role in the startling mass sighting that occurred over Arizona in 1997, commonly referred to as the "Phoenix Lights." A man by the name of Richard Curtis filmed the craft with professional equipment and wanted to make a copy of the footage for Barwood. Before he could make a copy, several men in black suits showed up

at his residence claiming to be from Barwood's office and they wanted the original footage. They claimed they would make copies, then return the original. Curtis called Barwood weeks later and asked if she received the footage, but she didn't and said she only had several female staffers. Video of barwood's testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj50i3GcTQE>

In 1956, Rex Heflin took 4 photographs of a UFO in one of the most famous UFO cases. The copy negatives were obtained from Heflin under false pretenses by someone pretending to be from the North American Air Defense Command. 32 years later, they were strangely mailed back to Heflin, confirming that the "model and string" debunking was nonsense.
https://www.nicap.org/reports/Goodbye_Rex_Heflin.pdf

High level FAA whistleblower John Callahan says government agents confiscated a bunch of evidence from a 1986 UFO case he was involved in, and the agents told everyone "this didn't happen." He made copies of the evidence and released this publicly. Video of Callahan's testimony and presented evidence:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4WTid300VE>

Prof. Robert Jacobs and Stanford researcher Dr. Florenze J. Mansmann say two "men in grey suits" confiscated video proof of a UFO disabling an ICBM in 1964. Mansmann was then an Air Force Major when the incident occurred: Video of Jacobs' testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4wL4lbwwNU>

The Westall Incident: Barbara Robbins, the chemistry teacher at Westall, took pictures of a UFO, but government agents confiscated the camera and film. - according to Graham Simmonds, another Westall witness. Covered here at the 12 min mark in Westall '66: A Suburban UFO Mystery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBItnCn3m7Rc>

Navy UFO mystery deepens amid disclosure that 'unknown individuals' told officers to erase evidence <https://www.foxnews.com/science/navy-ufo-mystery-deepens>

Nick Pope on the Missing Calvin UFO photo: "The Calvin UFO photo is the most spectacular UFO photo ever sent to the Ministry of Defence. It's also missing... There was a running joke that we didn't care if a craft such as the one shown in the Calvin UFO photo was American, Russian or Martian - all we knew was that it was better than anything we had and that we wanted the technology for our own military aircraft and drones... I asked my DIS opposite number about the image. I was told that the official assessment was that the photos were real and the craft had a diameter of around 25 metres (over 80 feet). At one particularly surreal briefing on the UFO phenomenon my DIS opposite number indicated the photo and pointed his finger to the right: "It's not the Americans", he said, before pointing to the left and saying "and it's not the Russians". There was a pause, before he concluded "and that only leaves ..." - his voice trailed off and he didn't complete the sentence, but his finger was pointing directly upwards... What happened next? The suspicion was that someone had shredded the photo, but whatever the truth of the matter, it was never seen again... I don't know if the photos or negatives will ever turn up, but I certainly hope they do. Because whatever peoples' views on UFOs, these are the photos that changed the minds of numerous skeptical civil servants, military personnel and intelligence specialists at MoD. I should know. I was one of them." <https://web.archive.org/web/20120324193601/http://nickpope.net/calvine-ufo-photo.htm>

Edit: Removed bad link, fixed Rex Helfin link

63

.

15

Comments Section

HeyPScott

•

6y ago

That Barwood account is new to me. Thanks, MK.

4

u/_Tyger_Tyger avatar

_Tyger_Tyger

•

6y ago

i don't think you have ESTABLISHED anything at all, all you have done is seen a few instances and noted them down.

1

[deleted]

•

6y ago

MIB are real. Yes, there is most likely some embellishment from people but I don't believe their intent is to deceive. I believe they are caught off guard by the sudden appearance of "official" people who make concise demands that it becomes a surreal moment for them. Then upon retelling the event it tends to take on a more sinister tone.

Even after 9/11 the owner of the gas station across from the Pentagon told the story how literally minutes after the "plane" hit the Pentagon how 2 men dressed in black suits appeared identifying themselves as FBI and confiscated his security camera footage.

How does the "FBI" know there is security camera footage at a gas station across from the Pentagon minutes after the impact and all while in the midst of 9/11 occurring?

9/11 conspiracies aside...that one story has ALWAYS sat weird with me.

5

u/Jimmyhunter1000 avatar

Jimmyhunter1000

•

6y ago

If I recall correctly, there was also a hotel video camera recording that shares a similar story on 9/11. It had captured the crash at the pentagon, but was swiftly MiB'ed within minutes.

3

broscan

•

6y ago

MIB are psychics. A group of Psychics that have connections to government and to some visitors. They keep things private.

2

[deleted]

•

6y ago

How ironic you should classify MIBs as psychics. A number of years ago I had an epiphany they were clairvoyants.

1

ZincFishExplosion

•

6y ago

Not exactly the same, but both Nick Mariana and Delbert Newhouse voluntarily gave the Air Force UFO videos that they had shot for analysis. Both also claimed their films were returned with frames missing. This was back in the early 50's.

2

Merpadurp

•

6y ago

I've never heard of the Calvin UFO photo but it sounds like it was the closest to a "smoking gun" that ever existed.

Very unfortunate

7

u/lighthawk16 avatar

lighthawk16

•

4y ago

Look for "calvine" here in this sub. You'll find lots of recreations and a supposed low-res version of it.

1

brassmorris

•

4y ago

The low res version is a photocopy of a pencil drawing I believe. I know its ridiculous isn't it, perhaps it's meant to be...

1

1 more reply

Spacecowboy78

•

6y ago

I pictured the MOD guy pointing up while letting that sentence hang, unfinished, and now i want to see that damn pic.

1

TheCoastalCardician

•

4y ago

Hey, do you happen to know where to find that interview with the younger US Marine that was on a crash recovery?

I thought it was involved in that same Sirius collection as Callaghan's you shared above, but I can't find it!

From the 90s or early 00s, I believe he described "claw marks" or "vents". Sound familiar at all?

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

That's one of my favorites.

Lance Corporal Jonathan Weygandt. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOwhJ4fJowk&t=22s>

Edit: fixed link.

3

TheCoastalCardician

•

4y ago

Thanks, Dude!

I've shown this to some Marine buddies and they agree with the other Marines who've said this kid served. Based off of how he talks about this stuff. It's also possible to act that real, of course, but he would've had to "spend a shit ton of time 'round us" is what I believe I was told lol.

This is also why it's important to try and find answers everywhere, even if the source is through a figure that is controversial. Many of those interviews are gold.

Hal's comments on the person that went on record saying he helped pass out ET tech is very interesting. I wish I could see that entire interview without edits! (can't remember the fella's name:/)

Thanks again!

Edit: For me— "UFO crash in Peru"

1

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Recent UFO sightings reported worldwide

Government disclosures on UFO investigations

Impact of UFOs on modern science

Public reactions to recent UFO news

The role of technology in UFO research

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Shocking UFO files hidden in presidential library claim US made successful contact with an alien race

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

8mo ago

Shocking UFO files hidden in presidential library claim US made successful contact with an alien race

r/ufo - Shocking UFO files hidden in presidential library claim US made successful contact with an alien race

CO

1.2K upvotes · 291 comments

The 1940s UFO & Aliens Sightings Iceberg (Explanation Video Included)

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1mo ago

The 1940s UFO & Aliens Sightings Iceberg (Explanation Video Included)

r/ufo - The 1940s UFO & Aliens Sightings Iceberg (Explanation Video Included)

156 upvotes · 19 comments

Shocking UFO materials hidden in the presidential library claim that the U.S. made successful contact with an alien race more than 60 years ago

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

8mo ago

Shocking UFO materials hidden in the presidential library claim that the U.S. made successful contact with an alien race more than 60 years ago

r/ufo - Shocking UFO materials hidden in the presidential library claim that the U.S. made successful contact with an alien race more than 60 years ago

ua-stena

324 upvotes · 62 comments

UFO whistleblower reveals the FOUR types of aliens the US government knows about

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5mo ago

UFO whistleblower reveals the FOUR types of aliens the US government knows about

r/ufo - UFO whistleblower reveals the FOUR types of aliens the US government

knows about

co

469 upvotes · 236 comments

A trove of UFO material has come up for auction and it features some interesting photos, many of which I've never come across before. These photos have been published by the auctioneer so I am sharing them here for research purposes.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

17d ago

A trove of UFO material has come up for auction and it features some interesting photos, many of which I've never come across before. These photos have been published by the auctioneer so I am sharing them here for research purposes.

r/ufo - A trove of UFO material has come up for auction and it features some interesting photos, many of which I've never come across before. These photos have been published by the auctioneer so I am sharing them here for research purposes.

20

2.6K upvotes · 287 comments

The Secretary of Defence of the sitting US government disclosed UFOs are real, this IS disclosure.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1mo ago

The Secretary of Defence of the sitting US government disclosed UFOs are real, this IS disclosure.

1.4K upvotes · 549 comments

Why didn't the UFOs seen in the past look like the UFOs we see today?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

18d ago

Why didn't the UFOs seen in the past look like the UFOs we see today?

r/ufo - Why didn't the UFOs seen in the past look like the UFOs we see today?

youtu

89 upvotes · 83 comments

(Part 2) A trove of UFO material has come up for auction and it features some interesting photos, many of which I've never come across before. These photos have been published by the auctioneer so I am sharing them here for research purposes. This is a follow-up to the other photos I posted earlier.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

17d ago

(Part 2) A trove of UFO material has come up for auction and it features some interesting photos, many of which I've never come across before. These photos have been published by the auctioneer so I am sharing them here for research purposes. This is a follow-up to the other photos I posted earlier.

r/ufo - (Part 2) A trove of UFO material has come up for auction and it features

some interesting photos, many of which I've never come across before. These photos have been published by the auctioneer so I am sharing them here for research purposes. This is a follow-up to the other photos I posted earlier.
20

1.9K upvotes · 202 comments

I put together a blog of the best UFO photos ever taken (in my opinion!)

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

I put together a blog of the best UFO photos ever taken (in my opinion!)

54 upvotes · 19 comments

UFO can't even be stopped by a military missile? Should we be worried or just keep looking the other way as if they don't exist, according to government concealing "information"...

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

UFO can't even be stopped by a military missile? Should we be worried or just keep looking the other way as if they don't exist, according to government concealing "information"...

r/ufo - UFO can't even be stopped by a military missile? Should we be worried or just keep looking the other way as if they don't exist, according to government concealing "information"...

youtu

114 upvotes · 118 comments

The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's Largest Mass UFO Sighting Still Defies Explanation After 60 Years

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3mo ago

The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's Largest Mass UFO Sighting Still Defies Explanation After 60 Years

r/ufo - The Westall UFO Incident: Australia's Largest Mass UFO Sighting Still Defies Explanation After 60 Years

62 upvotes · 28 comments

'Men disguised as police' attempt to steal sphere-shaped UFO after new information is revealed

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6mo ago

'Men disguised as police' attempt to steal sphere-shaped UFO after new information is revealed

r/ufo - 'Men disguised as police' attempt to steal sphere-shaped UFO after new information is revealed

co

520 upvotes · 89 comments

A massive UFO collection is going up for auction this month – including an unproduced Bob Lazar screenplay, a banned 1947 Roswell yearbook (the "holy grail of ufology"), and 150 original UFO photos from Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens' private archive, most never seen by the public.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

25d ago

A massive UFO collection is going up for auction this month – including an unproduced Bob Lazar screenplay, a banned 1947 Roswell yearbook (the "holy grail of ufology"), and 150 original UFO photos from Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens' private archive, most never seen by the public.

r/ufo - A massive UFO collection is going up for auction this month – including an unproduced Bob Lazar screenplay, a banned 1947 Roswell yearbook (the "holy

grail of ufology"), and 150 original UFO photos from Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens' private archive, most never seen by the public.

com

89 upvotes · 18 comments

Aircraft UFO.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3mo ago

Aircraft UFO.

r/ufo - Aircraft UFO.

874 upvotes · 154 comments

Military whistleblowers testify they've seen UFOs and government is part of cover up

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4mo ago

Military whistleblowers testify they've seen UFOs and government is part of cover up

r/ufo - Military whistleblowers testify they've seen UFOs and government is part of cover up

co

182 upvotes · 15 comments

Trump UFO disclosure predicted to come in just DAYS after mysterious 'insider' tip

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

20d ago

Trump UFO disclosure predicted to come in just DAYS after mysterious 'insider' tip

r/ufo - Trump UFO disclosure predicted to come in just DAYS after mysterious 'insider' tip

co

1.5K upvotes · 616 comments

Which UFO crash cases do you believe to be real?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

9mo ago

Which UFO crash cases do you believe to be real?

25 upvotes · 108 comments

I think this is a legit UFO

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

14d ago

I think this is a legit UFO

r/ufo - I think this is a legit UFO

4

83 comments

Brazil has released their UFO files

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

7mo ago

Brazil has released their UFO files

r/ufo - Brazil has released their UFO files

499 upvotes · 43 comments

The FBI Just Quietly Revealed That It Has a Real-Life UFO Office

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1y ago

The FBI Just Quietly Revealed That It Has a Real-Life UFO Office

r/ufo - The FBI Just Quietly Revealed That It Has a Real-Life UFO Office
futurism

1.2K upvotes · 122 comments

Why would UFOs have lights?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

2mo ago

Why would UFOs have lights?

391 upvotes · 263 comments

CIA Mishandles UFO Files Again: Intelligence on Soviet UFO Reports Lost Forever

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6mo ago

CIA Mishandles UFO Files Again: Intelligence on Soviet UFO Reports Lost Forever

r/ufo - CIA Mishandles UFO Files Again: Intelligence on Soviet UFO Reports Lost Forever

theblackvault

53 upvotes · 11 comments

Irish UFO experiencers, Please upvote/read!!!

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

19d ago

Irish UFO experiencers, Please upvote/read!!!

1 upvote · 10 comments

The UFO community is eating

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

13d ago

The UFO community is eating

r/ufo - The UFO community is eating

160 upvotes · 45 comments

Ufos are not what you think.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

15d ago

Ufos are not what you think.

r/ufo - Ufos are not what you think.

53 comments

Community Info Section

r/ufo

Join

UFO

A subreddit for the serious discussion of UFOs and related phenomena, with an emphasis on current events and breaking news. PLEASE DO NOT POST UFO VIDEOS/PHOTOS HERE. READ THE RULES!

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of March 7, 2020

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of March 2020

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2020

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

Please post the Most Interesting / best UAP related sighting, captured on video, you have found. Thanks from us all! : r/UF0s

Open menu

r/UF0s

Search in r/UF0s

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UF0s icon

Go to UF0s

r/UF0s

•

4y ago

Inflation-Witty

Please post the Most Interesting / best UAP related sighting, captured on video, you have found. Thanks from us all!

There seems to be an amazing amount of Videos I've not come across from South America suddenly being posted.

I tried to write the title in an Ambiguous way so it would cover all possible manifestations of UAP. Thanks for taking the time to post. It's good to see if there are any common traits and what amazing videos exist out there. Thanks!

20

•

24

Comments Section

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

•

4y ago

In my opinion, since UF0s have already been confirmed to exist (thanks Obama), there should be legitimate photos and videos of them that have blended in with the fakes. It doesn't matter if you believe UF0s are alien or secret aircraft. Legitimate photographic evidence exists. The trick is teasing out which ones those are.

For an example of one of the clearer shots, here is an extremely clear set of photos of a daylight disc taken in 2007 You can find tons of other photos on the bottom of this comment (most of which are obviously not as clear as this one).

The "FLYBY footage" and discussion:

https://www.reddit.com/r/UF0s/comments/pn09d7/higher_quality_flyby_footage_exists/

Here is a video from 1993 showing instantaneous movement from hover.

Here is 2003 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, close-up video of a UF0 that shows extreme acceleration and the noteworthy erratic/jittery movement or instability that some reports have described, as well as the "hot blacktop" effect.

Here is the Costa Rica 2007 UF0 video. Here are screenshots as it flipped and shot away, and here's a gif of the movement.

Here is the 2020 Cornwall sighting, UFO takes off from a hover.

UFO moves slowly then takes off at tremendous speed- August 16, 2020 UFO Sighting Capture in Volusia County, Florida

Extremely fast UFO filmed by passenger on airplane, moving in the same direction as the airplane, uploaded August 7, 2011.

Here is another one that was filmed from two vantage points. Prijedor - Bosnia. Recorded in the evening on 5-28-2009. Notice that you can see the shadow of the object on the building (because the sun has almost set, so the shadow is nearly horizontal). Here is the second camera.

This video of a flying saucer zipping around outside of an airplane window was "debunked" because the witness who posted the video was accused of being a hoaxer. She works in special effects (not VFX) and worked on a couple of alien themed movies. She was widely accused of being a hoaxer and eventually deleted her original tweet.

What are the odds that a UFO witness would work in special effects on a few alien movies? My answer is that it's practically guaranteed that you'll find at least one coincidence if you spend enough time digging. See why legitimate UFO footage is guaranteed to be "debunked": probability is not common sense.

I also have a more in-depth discussion of most of these videos here, including more information and discussion of some of the attempted debunkings.

I'm not a video analyst. Are at least some of these CGI, a drone, or a secret US aircraft? Maybe, I don't know, but they are interesting until somebody is able to explain them with certainty. At the very least, videos like this are exactly what we should expect to see since UFOs are real. I think there is probably a lot more legitimate content out there that has been mostly ignored.

Finally, it's worth mentioning that there is a good amount of alleged confiscations of UFO evidence from both civilians and military personnel, along with leaks admitting that the US has much better evidence than has been made public, including clear photographic evidence. But I don't think this would be sufficient to assume no photos can make it out into the public. I think quite a few have because such a coverup is not going to be perfect. Case in point: there have literally been hundreds of whistleblowers and leaks.

And for those interested in digging more photos up, here are like 600 alleged UFO photos, everything from quite blurry to extremely clear. I haven't found a perfect collection of photos yet, but I did find 5 decent ones:

UFO Evidence. Here is a collection of 284 photos. Keep clicking 'next' to go through the archive:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130408231505/http://www.ufoevidence.org/photographs/section/recent/Photo426.htm>

UFO Casebook. Several hundred photos. Click the time periods on the top left sidebar for more pages of photos.

<https://www.ufocasebook.com/bestufopictures.html>.

Patrick Gross UFO photo archive: <https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/htm/pics.htm>

4.1) BlackVault UFO daytime photos:

<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/category/ufos/daytime-sightings/w-photo/> (you can scroll through more pages at the bottom)

4.2) BlackVault UFO nighttime photos:

<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/category/ufos/nighttime-sightings/w-photos/> (you can scroll through more pages at the bottom)

5) Wendelle Stevens Archive: <http://www.openminds.tv/category/articles/wendelle-stevens-archive>

41

u/Inflation-Witty avatar

Inflation-Witty

OP

•

4y ago

Amazing amount of depth to this reply, thank you so much for the effort in linking all these videos ill go through them! Appreciated!

10

u/Inflation-Witty avatar

Inflation-Witty

OP

•

4y ago

Wow those were amazing! I loved this page near the bottom the oddly mechanical mosquito UAP so clearly caught! amazing..

<http://web.archive.org/web/20141222142804/http://www.ufocasebook.com/bestufopictures10.html>

The Bulgaria footage you mentioned is amazing as well

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBOWJOC4FYQ>

5

im_da_nice_guy

•

4y ago

I think that one that you mention was debunked as some sort of marketing campaign, there was some "leaked" documents associated with that one, i think it was called carat and on an old type of webpage. I also thought it was super interesting but iirc there is info on the marketing campaign that claimed credit for it out there. Sorry for not providing links but i dont have them readily available, but if i find some tomorrow ill add another reply linking them.

3

2 more replies

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

•

4y ago

2003 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

If I really had to pick one that looks fake, I'd say the Bulgaria video might be, but I'm not a VFX guy, so I don't know. I can't tell if there are tracking problems with it or if the UFO just jumps around so much that the shaky camera movement aligns a couple of times making it seem like there are tracking problems. It's hard to tell for me with little knowledge of VFX.

There are tons of videos out there though. These are just the ones that showed some kind of crazy movement and looked interesting enough. I'll eventually put together another post like this with a bunch of other ones.

1

[deleted]

•

4y ago

That's a good list

4
u/ImpossibleWin7298 avatar
ImpossibleWin7298

•

4y ago
Excellent work! Thank you.

2
u/Inflation-Witty avatar
Inflation-Witty
OP

•

4y ago
On a side note, why in the hell would anyone downvote this post?

Don't they enjoy finding interesting videos? It's full of very odd characters.

6
u/iamstillaskeptic avatar
iamstillaskeptic

•

4y ago
Because they perceive your curiosity as a threat and feel like they lack evidence

4
u/Inflation-Witty avatar
Inflation-Witty
OP

•

4y ago
Thanks i feel like thats some much needed insight.

2
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee

•

4y ago
Another interesting tidbit is the alleged set of Gulf breeze craft photos, which most people believe to be a hoax, but several other photos of the same craft surfaced after Gulf breeze. That object is quite an outlier.

The Gulf Breeze photos, Venezuela 1990, and May 2009 Wisconsin all feature the same strange craft. I'm not entirely convinced on it myself, but this is a great example of how certain cases can corroborate each other. It's one of those cases where I just say that I would not be surprised if this was legit, given everything else out there.

Gulf Breeze photos: <https://ufologie.patrickgross.org/htm/picgbr.htm>

The same craft was also supposedly witnessed in Wisconsin by a man named Paul Scheeler on May 30 and 31, 2009. Here are 4 photos: <https://imgur.com/a/I3wztaE>

January, 1990 in Canaima, Venezuela:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20130409074145/http://www.ufoevidence.org/photographs/section/recent/Photo44.htm>

As for allegations that Walters was photographing models, he maintains that somebody planted the model in his attic after he sold his house. Here are a few of his responses to some of the criticisms, such as the felony he received when he was 18: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA4atn8wHps>

5

u/Inflation-Witty avatar

Inflation-Witty

OP

•

4y ago

Yes exceptional photos if real and at this point theres a chance it might be.

4

u/ItsTheBS avatar

ItsTheBS

•

4y ago

I think the 2003 New Westminster, British Columbia Canada is neat because it leads to a whole lot of Ummo:

UFO recorded in New Westminster BC Canada 2003

<https://youtu.be/ctwakL6Tq1k>

UFOs & Aliens - Ummo Spaceship Analyzed, Ummo Sciences Introduction and Ummo Landings Reviewed

<https://youtu.be/Z7IBHK9wqxo>

Kumburgaz Turkey videos are good too because they lead to this:

Turkey UFO Occupants

<https://imgur.com/a/GW0SDiQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TurkeyUFOIncident/videos>

Bob Lazar's Wednesday Night Sport Model UFO test is neat because this leads to everyone yelling back and forth about Bob's resume of education and work history.

March 29, 1989 Wednesday Night Test flight video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKmwPQLQsSk&t=328s>

A still frame:

<https://preview.redd.it/unni8ifjz0f81.jpg?width=994&format=pjpg&auto=webp&s=ad6f16400e92a63c29f63307a97b6119a4b834fa>

6

u/Maxwell_RN avatar

Maxwell_RN

•

4y ago

Holy shit. Nice work! That's the best post i have seen here!

3

u/Inflation-Witty avatar

Inflation-Witty

OP

•

4y ago

Thank you man! Really interesting.. I like the Turkey one alot, i'd seen that..
The new Denver one i found exceptional.

2

User63

•

4y ago

lmao that 2003 footage is faker than shit bro!

-1

u/ItsTheBS avatar

ItsTheBS

•

4y ago

lmao that 2003 footage is faker than shit bro!

LMAO, that just shows how dumb you are at figuring out what is real and what is fake. What's your proof? Are you just going to dismiss the eye witness reports, because you are somehow smarter? Or is it just fake because YOU SO SMART and said so?

0

2 more replies

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Not a good list

-4

u/ItsTheBS avatar

ItsTheBS

•

4y ago

Not a good list

Gee thanks! Did you really feel the need to be negative and talk other people down? Do you feel like a better person by doing that?

3

1 more reply

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

My uap sighting (report)

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

My uap sighting (report)
r/UF0s - My uap sighting (report)
2
73 upvotes · 11 comments
UAP sighting? What did I just take a picture of...
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
6mo ago
UAP sighting? What did I just take a picture of...
r/UF0s - UAP sighting? What did I just take a picture of...
15
449 upvotes · 123 comments
What's the best photos of ufo/UAP you believe to be the best compelling evidence that we are not alone?
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
10mo ago
What's the best photos of ufo/UAP you believe to be the best compelling evidence that we are not alone?
r/UF0s - What's the best photos of ufo/UAP you believe to be the best compelling evidence that we are not alone?
2
860 upvotes · 179 comments
I may have just seen the same UAP that was spotted on ABC7
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
2mo ago
I may have just seen the same UAP that was spotted on ABC7
r/UF0s - I may have just seen the same UAP that was spotted on ABC7
2
2.6K upvotes · 366 comments
UAP Videos at tomorrow's hearing
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
4mo ago
UAP Videos at tomorrow's hearing
92 upvotes · 20 comments
I think my partner and I saw something like a UAP
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
1y ago
I think my partner and I saw something like a UAP
r/UF0s - I think my partner and I saw something like a UAP
8
1.2K upvotes · 137 comments
Stabilized footage from most recent UAP video (post strike)
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
4mo ago
Stabilized footage from most recent UAP video (post strike)
r/UF0s - Stabilized footage from most recent UAP video (post strike)
198 upvotes · 29 comments
My Experience with a UFO/UAP
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
6mo ago
My Experience with a UFO/UAP

32 upvotes · 7 comments

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

r/UFOs - There is a vast amount of publicly available information and data from which intelligent, objective, and unbiased individuals can logically conclude that UFOs/UAP do, in fact, represent Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) – and that they are interacting with humanity.

489 upvotes · 70 comments

Witnesses for the upcoming UAP hearing.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

Witnesses for the upcoming UAP hearing.

r/UFOs - Witnesses for the upcoming UAP hearing.

336 upvotes · 122 comments

What do you think is the most consequential thought provoking aspect about UAP that prevents disclosure?

[r/UFOs icon](#)

r/UFOs

•

21d ago

What do you think is the most consequential thought provoking aspect about UAP that prevents disclosure?

30 upvotes · 127 comments

UFO investigation heating up? UAP Caucus penning demand letters, vetting whistleblowers

[r/UFOs icon](#)

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

UFO investigation heating up? UAP Caucus penning demand letters, vetting whistleblowers

232 upvotes · 23 comments

Military UAP's - Old Video

[r/UFOs icon](#)

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

Military UAP's - Old Video

r/UFOs - Military UAP's - Old Video

289 upvotes · 11 comments

UAP in Hong Kong. Apologies for the potato cam but has anyone seen anything like this before?

[r/UFOs icon](#)

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

UAP in Hong Kong. Apologies for the potato cam but has anyone seen anything like this before?

r/UFOs - UAP in Hong Kong. Apologies for the potato cam but has anyone seen anything like this before?

43 upvotes · 7 comments

UAP Hearing date/time and YouTube link

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

4mo ago
UAP Hearing date/time and YouTube link
63 upvotes · 7 comments
UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

3mo ago
UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.
r/UFOs - UFOs/UAP are a Global Phenomena.
113 upvotes · 7 comments
Please anyone, have you ever seen this ?

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

7mo ago
Please anyone, have you ever seen this ?
r/UFOs - Please anyone, have you ever seen this ?

8

2.7K upvotes · 501 comments
Five witnesses are going to be testifying at this next UAP hearing

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

5mo ago
Five witnesses are going to be testifying at this next UAP hearing
310 upvotes · 68 comments

Sighting
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

22d ago
Sighting
r/UFOs - Sighting
638 upvotes · 63 comments
Anyone heard of this?

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

18d ago
Anyone heard of this?
r/UFOs - Anyone heard of this?
16 upvotes · 40 comments

What is this?
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

6d ago
What is this?
r/UFOs - What is this?

2

80 upvotes · 67 comments
What is this?

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

16d ago
What is this?
r/UFOs - What is this?
117 upvotes · 84 comments
What is this?

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

8d ago

What is this?

r/UF0s - What is this?

74 upvotes · 56 comments

Had to re install reddit to share this with you all

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2mo ago

Had to re install reddit to share this with you all

r/UF0s - Had to re install reddit to share this with you all

569 upvotes · 80 comments

Something truly unexpected!

r/UF0s icon

r/UF0s

•

2mo ago

Something truly unexpected!

253 upvotes · 41 comments

Community Info Section

r/UF0s

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 10, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

I just finished watching "The Phenomenon" and I am speechless : r/UF0s

Open menu

r/UF0s

Search in r/UF0s

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UF0s icon

Go to UF0s

r/UF0s

•

4y ago

[deleted]

I just finished watching "The Phenomenon" and I am speechless
I literally feel baffled that there are people out there who don't believe that
we're being visited by these crafts.

I feel like public interest regarding this subject should be much higher than it
is today. I don't get how more people aren't losing sleep over this like I am.

No joke I'm sitting on my bed thinking I should go live in a farm somewhere
instead so I can look up at the sky more often. I mean I know that there isn't
much we CAN do, but like, wow.

One thing I found most interesting is that the telepathic message that the
Aliens communicated to the children were about how technology isn't good for us?
Why would they say that? Why warn against the inevitable when they're so
advanced themselves

485

.

224

Comments Section

u/MKULTRA_Escapée avatar

MKULTRA_Escapée

•

4y ago

The media has done a terrible job of disseminating the information. You have to
remember that the vast majority of people have not seen this documentary. They
have not seen UFOs and Nukes. They have not seen UFO press club events. They
haven't read any credible UFO books. They have no idea that there are literally
hundreds of whistleblowers out there. All they really know about is the
extremely controversial Bob Lazar, which is not enough to take the subject
seriously.

From nearly the beginning of the modern UFO phenomenon, there has been a skew
towards giving most of the attention to debunked and frivolous cases, while
mostly ignoring the credible, unexplained cases. For me personally, I'm not
surprised that this has continued to the present day.

After a closed-door session with a scientific advisory panel chaired by H.P.
Robertson from the California Institute of Technology, the C.I.A. issued a
secret report recommending a broad educational program for all intelligence
agencies, with the aim of "training and debunking."

Training meant more public education on how to identify known objects in the
sky. "The use of true cases showing first the 'mystery' and then the
'explanation' would be forceful," the report said. Debunking "would be
accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular
articles."

That plan involved using psychologists, advertising experts, amateur astronomers
and even Disney cartoons to create propaganda to reduce public interest. And
civilian U.F.O. groups should be "watched," the report stated, because of their
"great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/15/arts/television/project-blue-book-history-true-story.html>

There is also the problem of guilt by association. Say some disinformation agent
or charlatan comes out with crazy claims about a secret space program to fight
time-traveling aliens. Regular people who catch such insane claims once in a
while will just assume UFO/alien whistleblowers are all nutjobs. In reality,
each person must be judged separately because one crackpot should not discredit
a completely separate credentialed individual. This goes for both UFO witnesses
and whistleblowers. This is made worse because the crackpots seem to get much
more publicity than credible individuals.

Edward J. Ruppelt:

...It was the typical negative approach. I know that the negative approach is typical of the way that material is handed out by the Air Force because I was continually being told to "tell them about the sighting reports we've solved—don't mention the unknowns." I was never ordered to tell this, but it was a strong suggestion and in the military when higher headquarters suggests, you do.

-The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, by Edward J. Ruppelt, Air Force Director of Project Grudge and Blue Book [1956] - Chapter 5, page 62.

An example of this can be seen here from Steven Hawking's Ted Talk.

"We don't seem to have been visited by aliens. I am discounting the reports of UFOs. Why would they appear only to cranks and weirdos?" (From around the 5 min mark)

https://www.ted.com/talks/stephen_hawking_questioning_the_universe#t-286325

If such a bankrupt and literally false idea can fool people even of Hawking's caliber, then it is no wonder that people believe "disclosure" has not occurred yet. It is no wonder so many people dismiss the topic of UFOs altogether.

Give the crap in ufology undue attention and ignore the credible stuff. The result is fewer people take the subject seriously.

108

Rageagainstsomething

•

4y ago

What's the credible stuff?

1

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

•

4y ago

That would take a very long time to answer properly, but I can give a few. I guarantee you will disagree on some of the material I will share, but the point is to show what is out there vs what the average person thinks about the subject of UFOs.

I would first recommend looking through the List of scientists and scientific organizations investigating the UFO phenomenon from the UFOs wiki, on the bottom half of the page: <https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/wiki/wiki/science> You can find quite a few good leads there. I would particularly recommend going through James E. McDonald's material. He investigated the Westall case and many others.

The list of whistleblowers and leakers is insane. While you may disagree on some of them, there are just far too many.

Edit: I somehow forgot about Danny Sheehan when I wrote this: In 1977, via Jimmy Carter who was attempting to gain access to classified information about UFOs, Sheehan was secured access to classified Project Bluebook records in which he was able to review hard proof of the UFO phenomenon, but was told he could neither take photos nor notes. Brief 3 minute interview on this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1DFaGJ4nWw>

More information on the government's public-facing vs. classified UFO investigations. Declassified and public documents prove that the government has been secretly studying UFOs basically from the beginning.

Here is one of Sheehan's latest appearances on a roundtable with several other whistleblowers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ovvwt1UqqA>

Alain Julliet, the former head of the French Spy agency DGSE, has said UAP are not from any country on Earth, that they have been detected going faster than the speed of sound underwater, and much more.
https://np.reddit.com/r/aliens/comments/u48tij/alain_juliet_the_former_head_of_the_french_spy/

"To date, Hastings has interviewed more than 150 military veterans who were involved in various UFO-related incidents at U.S. missile sites, weapons storage facilities, and nuclear bomb test ranges. The events described by these individuals leave little doubt that the U.S. nuclear weapons program is an ongoing source of interest to someone possessing vastly superior technology."
<https://www.ufohastings.com/>

While he himself may not be credible, Steven Greer has like 60 of them on his youtube channel. One example is "UFO Crash in Peru":<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0whJ4fJ0Wk>

and here are the other ~60: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DrStevenGreer55/videos?view=0&sort=da&flow=grid>

Researcher Leslie Kean wrote about like 30 of them in her book UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials go on the Record.

Researcher Leonard Stringfield had like 50 sources on UFO crashes or debris that he wrote of in his books Situation Red and his UFO Crash Retrieval series.

Ross Coulthart has his own sources, including Nat Kobitz.

Several Intel Community members leaked out that the government has much better evidence than has been made public, including an "extremely clear" photograph of a triangular UFO. <https://thedebrief.org/fast-movers-and-transmedium-vehicles-the-pentagons-uap-task-force/>

Edward Ruppelt revealed the existence of several then secret documents in his 1956 book, including the Robertson Panel Report, which was later declassified. Another was the Estimate of the Situation, which was never released, and a couple others.

Brigadier General Arthur E. Exon: the highest ranking military officer to come out and say directly that Roswell was the crash of a spacecraft and that alien bodies were recovered. This was common knowledge in his circles.
<http://roswellproof.homestead.com/exon.html>

In a 1960 letter to Congress, Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, who was first Director of the CIA, stated:

"Behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. To hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel."

Full New York Times article: <https://imgur.com/a/ljgfJyx> (Paywalled link: <https://www.nytimes.com/1960/02/28/archives/air-forge-order-on-saucers-cited-pamphlet-by-the-inspector-general.html>)

UFOs and nukes. 7 military UFO whistleblowers on the record from 2010 DC press conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v737aq0J2fs> [1.5 hours]

Other examples of UFO whistleblowers or leakers include Victor Marchetti, Chase Brandon, former Senator Harry Reid, Major Jesse Marcel, Nick Pope, Christopher Mellon, Luiz Elizondo, Dr. Milton Torres, Former Phoenix City Councilwoman

Frances Barwood, The Nimitz/Roosevelt crews, and many, many others.

Former President Obama admits UFOs with unexplainable characteristics are real:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xp6Ph5iTIgc>

You can demonstrate that there was a propaganda operation to discredit the subject of UFOs:
https://np.reddit.com/r/aliens/comments/ja0dqd/in_the_early_1950s_the_cia_put_forward_a_plan_to/

The myths are really crazy to look through. I don't think it's even possible to stop them. They basically create a series of walls in people's heads that prevents them from accepting this reality. Knocking down a few seems to have little effect. As long as there are some left, the person may never come to accept it. Examples:

Average people are often told that the scientific consensus says interstellar travel is impossible or too difficult, which would mean that aliens likely couldn't travel here, but this is a myth:
https://np.reddit.com/r/HighStrangeness/comments/s77z1n/out_of_the_many_myths_about_ufos_perhaps_the_most/

Average people are told that aliens probably wouldn't be humanoid, which would mean that all 4,000+ humanoid encounters are bogus, but this doesn't even seem to be correct. It's at the very least controversial.
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/tmjddp/fermi_paradox_and_why_i_believe_ufos_are_not_et/i21u54s/

Average people are told there is no physical evidence for UFOs, but that is also a myth. Stanford's Garry Nolan has been studying UFO debris, and tons of encounters involved the UFOs having a physical effect on the environment and people. Examples include Rendlesham Forest, Lonnie Zamora, and many, many others.

Average people are told that there are no clear or close-up photographs of UFOs, which would be quite strange indeed if that was true, but it's not.
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/tqr1sn/if_aliens_are_real_which_i_do_believe_in_why_wont/i2mv3p5/

Average people are told that most or all UFO sightings are in America, but this is also not true:
https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/hye4lb/why_are_most_if_not_all_ufo_sightings_ive_seen_on/fzc95nv/

edit: added another link.

85

rollerjoe93

•

4y ago

This is a grundle level comment. Godspeed sir

7

u/maxthepupp avatar

maxthepupp

•

4y ago

Nice post!

2

[deleted]

•

4y ago

How do we help break the walls? Is there a particular case or series of events that would be an interesting narrative to average population?

2

u/B-mello avatar

B-mello

•

4y ago

Come on my dude is that all ya got?

-1

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

•

4y ago

See the first sentence my friend. That is what I could come up with before the hour was out because it seemed rude to go so long without a reply to the individual asking the question. If you want more information, here are a few books:

UFOs and the National Security State 1941-73 by Richard Dolan. UFOs and Nukes by Robert Hastings. Extraterrestrial by Avi Loeb, which is primarily about 'Oumuamua, a strange unidentified object that passed through our solar system. Encounter in Rendlesham Forest by Pope, Burroughs, and Penniston. The UFO Enigma by Peter A. Sturrock. The Hynek UFO Report by J. Allen Hynek. Unconventional Flying Objects By Paul R. Hill. The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects by Edward Ruppelt. The Flying Saucers are Real by Major Donald Keyhoe.

A few non-UFO books that I would recommend are The Future of Humanity by Michio Kaku and Physics of the Impossible by the same author. These books get into advanced future technologies, space travel, and countless historical examples of "impossible" technologies being conquered by science. I would also recommend Arik Kershenbaum, University of Cambridge, Department of Zoology, author of The Zoologist's Guide to the Galaxy: What Animals on Earth Reveal About Aliens--and Ourselves. This book lays out very clearly point by point why we should expect extraterrestrial planets and civilizations to share a great many characteristics with earth.

12

Continue this thread

Rageagainstsomething

•

4y ago

15 more replies

9 more replies

HANS_YOLO000000000000

•

4y ago

skirt reminiscent light tidy tender judicious slim squalid voiceless butter

This post was mass deleted and anonymized with Redact

36

MnkaH

•

4y ago

It's on Tubi (at least in Canada). Tubi is an ad supported streaming app.

20

AStripClubNamedBeef

•

4y ago

Amazon Prime is where I watched it.

25

Lennyhi

•

4y ago

I would also like to say thanks!

5

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Not in my country. I just get that Travolta movie. Thankyou 1337X. Took a while not alot of seeders. Excited to watch it though. Love this stuff. Also if any female "Nordic" type visitors are here. You are officially on my guilt free 5 list and if you could clear up some medical issues also that would be super. Hit me up. Love out.

14

5 more replies

1 more reply

GregLoire

•

4y ago

As others said, Tubi. Direct link: <https://tubitv.com/movies/632920/the-phenomenon>

12

LordTravesty

•

4y ago

<https://tubitv.com/movies/632920/the-phenomenon?start=true>

<https://www.veoh.com/watch/v142090178B3qqnW3>

18

7 more replies

5 more replies

u/candidgodly avatar

candidgodly

•

4y ago

Normal people are just too 'busy' with their own lives to care about this. They might watch the phenomenon and maybe it will make em think on it for a while but they'll return to their routines eventually. Some may seek more info but most will carry on with social media nonsense and next netflix episodes and will smith/chris rock drama. They will pay attention to the things that don't matter.. its going to be an uphill battle to get people to care about this subject. Thats just my 2 cents....

69

u/IchooseYourName avatar

IchooseYourName

•

4y ago

It's the most important news story in human history: We are not alone.

But you're right about people's attention spans; they can only take on so much. I've been following this narrative since I was a kid and it actually helped me deinstitutionalize myself away from the Catholic church, so I have a very different perspective than someone that ignored the narrative because they think it's all BS or whatever and only now are considering it as something that could be real.

And for me, I use the narrative as a crutch when I'm having a bad day or someone close to me is sick and/or dying. Yes it's sad, but these instances happen every day, are a part of our daily lives. To think that we're actually being visited by interdimensional/intergalactic craft and/or beings soothes my heart when I'm worried or pained by Earthly factors. Just knowing that it's true, there really is so much more going on around us that we are only scratching the surface about really is consoling. The aspect or perspective of the "bigger picture" being FAR more greater and significant than previously known, something only our current generation gets to affirmatively acknowledge, makes so many things in my life seem so much more trivial. It took me a long time of ridicule and being frowned at because people didn't even want to discuss the topic to get to this point of: "Whelp, it's true! My perspective and outlook regarding the reality of our existence is far more on point than not." It's something that for many people is scary and Earth shattering, which is why they STILL choose to ignore it. They've got too many things in their life that are also scary and Earth shattering. For me, it's cathartic and I think about it more now that my cat is dying than I have in a long time.

I love you bud, but your little life and existence pales in comparison to what is actually going on around us.

14
fizzywinkstopkek

•

4y ago
Most normal people live from paycheck to paycheck, worrying if they could pay rent or buy enough food for their kids.

8

24 more replies
AVBforPrez

•

4y ago
You have to take in to consideration that for decades, like 50+ years, there was a very thorough and proactive effort by the intelligence agencies to create ridicule around the subject, and these efforts were obviously super effective.

Maybe because of post-WW2 nerves, maybe because of something else, they decided that they didn't want the public knowing about it or talking about it. Rather than just deny it or try to act like it didn't exist, they found ways to make anyone who took the subject seriously look like crazies and idiots, and that stigma still exists today.

It's hard to get people over that pre-existing stigma and fear of scorn/ridicule, and that's why you don't see this stuff talked about more often and more seriously.

9
Kriz-tuhl

•

4y ago
I agree. I am super puzzled about why this isn't considered WAY more important than celebrities or football games. This is a huge deal. I think about it quite often. When I get a chance to talk with somebody who also is interested in discussing this fascinating topic it is so refreshing. People still stigmatize

UFOs even though governments admit they are real and there have been so many sightings. People are weird!

17

[deleted]

OP

•

4y ago

Btw I fully believe the children from the Zimbabwe sighting. Every word. How they felt. What they saw. I believe em. What a way to end the documentary.

47

goodiegoodgood

•

4y ago

Absolutely, there is no doubt in my mind that the Zimbabwe-incident is the real deal, there are just waaay too many witnesses for it to be a hoax (and they all still stand by their testimonies all these years later!). 'The Phenomenon' is a truly great documentary, I recommended it to many friends/family.

12

9 more replies

coffyrocket

•

4y ago

James Fox is the real deal. The Phenomenon is a clinic on "how to make a superb documentary," and should be studied by (ahem) Corbell (loved the valuable data to be found in his – went to the premiere – but it was a chore to sift out the good from the all the self-indulgent arthouseyness). Ben Rich, Jerry Freeman, Jim Goodall, Glenn Campbell, my own grandfather (ex-Navy EE contractor for CIA) all hint that Lazar's narrative is the signal in the noise – and I love that without naming him once, The Phenomenon does too. (There are many specifics but two that spring to mind right away: the hyper-credible witnesses describing disks tilting to fly "belly first," and the universal ascription of a dull electric orange to craft in movement (high-energy ionization effect on the air, exactly per BL).

S tier film.

6

Fun_Possibility_8637

•

4y ago

I believe, I just wish I knew what the holdup is.

5

u/replicant5150 avatar

replicant5150

•

4y ago

James Fox has made the single best documentary on the subject to date. Better even for the uninitiated, as it recounts the 75+ year history on this topic that has been hidden from most everyone, and is not found in our history books. Stigma is an extremely strong force in culture. Share this movie with friends and family. Only when we the the Citizens remind the politicians who they work for can this truth be revealed. The government works for US, not the reverse.

5

Scipio5

•

4y ago

I literally feel baffled that there are people out there who don't believe that

we're being visited by these crafts.

Well you shouldn't be. There are some credible witnesses and compelling stories, but that still isn't hard evidence or undeniable proof.

27

2 more replies

heAd3r

•

4y ago

its without a doubt a good watch; however it only scratched what might be going on

4

Yoprobro13

•

4y ago

I've been in your position just a few months ago. You'll learn to live with the idea, but you will probably continue to think about it everyday. You're not alone

4

Infamous_Barnacle_17

•

4y ago

That because they were conditioned to ignore it by the governments of the world.

4

1 more reply

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UFOs - My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

2.8K upvotes · 263 comments

The UFO Phenomenon Is Weirder Than You Think

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1y ago

The UFO Phenomenon Is Weirder Than You Think

912 upvotes · 362 comments

I've always been fascinated by the UFO phenomenon, studying everything from the technology and motives to the ancient connections and countless theories.

Lately, I've found that these old sci fi films from the 1950s-1970s actually

hold a surprising amount of soft disclosure.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

3mo ago

I've always been fascinated by the UFO phenomenon, studying everything from the technology and motives to the ancient connections and countless theories.

Lately, I've found that these old sci fi films from the 1950s-1970s actually hold a surprising amount of soft disclosure.

[r/UFOs](#) - I've always been fascinated by the UFO phenomenon, studying everything from the technology and motives to the ancient connections and countless theories. Lately, I've found that these old sci fi films from the 1950s-1970s actually hold a surprising amount of soft disclosure.

936 upvotes · 67 comments

This one is a bit wild ngl - in 1967, two teens in Idaho said a UFO with 2 beings dragged their car into a field and one of the beings got inside the car without opening the door. It's weird, detailed, and they had a witness back up the claims. Curious what you all think.

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

6mo ago

This one is a bit wild ngl - in 1967, two teens in Idaho said a UFO with 2 beings dragged their car into a field and one of the beings got inside the car without opening the door. It's weird, detailed, and they had a witness back up the claims. Curious what you all think.

[r/UFOs](#) - This one is a bit wild ngl - in 1967, two teens in Idaho said a UFO with 2 beings dragged their car into a field and one of the beings got inside the car without opening the door. It's weird, detailed, and they had a witness back up the claims. Curious what you all think.

[thehiddenarchive](#)

98 upvotes · 14 comments

Which type of UFO have you seen?

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

4mo ago

Which type of UFO have you seen?

[r/UFOs](#) - Which type of UFO have you seen?

2.3K upvotes · 1.2K comments

Ontological Shock Question - Afterlife Perspective

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

21d ago

Ontological Shock Question - Afterlife Perspective

289 upvotes · 389 comments

If you liked The Age of Disclosure (produced by Luis Elizondo, et al) then you would LOVE the documentary series UFOs: Investigating the Unknown (produced by Leslie Kean, et al)

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

1mo ago

If you liked The Age of Disclosure (produced by Luis Elizondo, et al) then you would LOVE the documentary series UFOs: Investigating the Unknown (produced by Leslie Kean, et al)

28 upvotes · 10 comments

Consciousness is the Basis of the UFO and ET Phenomenon | Grant Cameron

[r/UFOs icon](#)

[r/UFOs](#)

•

14d ago

Consciousness is the Basis of the UFO and ET Phenomenon | Grant Cameron

r/UF0s - Consciousness is the Basis of the UFO and ET Phenomenon | Grant Cameron
youtu
84 upvotes · 30 comments
The only thing that has been "Too Much To Handle" is the Christian Perspective concerning the phenomenon...just saying Thoughts?
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
17d ago
The only thing that has been "Too Much To Handle" is the Christian Perspective concerning the phenomenon...just saying Thoughts?
73 comments
Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
25d ago
Prominent Figures in the UFO/UAP World Who Have Gone Quiet - What Are They Up To?
128 upvotes · 179 comments
This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
5mo ago
This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's
r/UF0s - This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's
youtu
929 upvotes · 291 comments
I don't want to be the UFO weirdo, but sometimes I just can't hold back.
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
4mo ago
I don't want to be the UFO weirdo, but sometimes I just can't hold back.
112 upvotes · 290 comments
For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
7d ago
For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption
r/UF0s - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption
substack
173 upvotes · 87 comments
This story is starting to sound true.
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s
•
7mo ago
This story is starting to sound true.
r/UF0s - This story is starting to sound true.
youtu
277 upvotes · 176 comments
People physically affected by a UFO after a close encounter (Eyes on Cinema)
r/UF0s icon
r/UF0s

•

10mo ago

People physically affected by a UFO after a close encounter (Eyes on Cinema)
r/UFOs - People physically affected by a UFO after a close encounter (Eyes on Cinema)

youtube

156 upvotes · 26 comments

Odd Phenomenon sighted

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Odd Phenomenon sighted

r/UFOs - Odd Phenomenon sighted

290 upvotes · 101 comments

Truer words have never been spoken...

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

Truer words have never been spoken...

r/UFOs - Truer words have never been spoken...

445 upvotes · 127 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

Has anyone else come to the conclusion that we're just going to keep being lied to?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

Has anyone else come to the conclusion that we're just going to keep being lied to?

289 upvotes · 118 comments

Do governments really avoid revealing anything about aliens just because they are concerned about people having panic attacks?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

19d ago

Do governments really avoid revealing anything about aliens just because they are concerned about people having panic attacks?

71 upvotes · 157 comments

Something weird in the sky- help me make sense of it

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

Something weird in the sky- help me make sense of it

r/UFOs - Something weird in the sky- help me make sense of it

27 comments

I Saw Something That Made Me A Believer

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

I Saw Something That Made Me A Believer

231 upvotes · 73 comments

What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4d ago

What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?

41 upvotes · 75 comments

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9d ago

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

14 upvotes · 47 comments

I need some good book recommendations, please

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

I need some good book recommendations, please

9 upvotes · 29 comments

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

Out of the many myths about UFOs, perhaps the most deceptive is the idea that "interstellar travel is impossible, therefore UFOs cannot be aliens." Here is a full breakdown of why this argument doesn't hold any water. : r/HighStrangeness

Open menu

r/HighStrangeness

Search in r/HighStrangeness

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/HighStrangeness icon

Go to HighStrangeness

r/HighStrangeness

•

4y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

Out of the many myths about UFOs, perhaps the most deceptive is the idea that "interstellar travel is impossible, therefore UFOs cannot be aliens." Here is a full breakdown of why this argument doesn't hold any water.

Myth, paraphrased: "According to scientific consensus, interstellar travel is impossible or completely impractical, which means that aliens cannot travel here, which means that UFOs cannot be aliens." Alternatively: "Nothing can go faster than the speed of light, therefore, it would take literally years to get to Earth. No alien in his right mind would do this, therefore, UFOs cannot be aliens."

Some people also just assume that aliens must be coming from millions of light years away, but why? What is the rate at which alien civilizations arise? We have no idea. The closest star is 4.3 light years away. That's less than 5, not 7 million light years. There are 2,000 stars within 50 light years of Earth. It seems obvious that a civilization that develops space flight capabilities would probably start colonizing the galaxy after millions of years of advancement. We are already planning on colonizing the Moon and Mars. If you guess that the odds of another civilization forming alongside ours within several light years is too low, what about colonization and migration across the galaxy over millions or billions of years? There is no good reason to rule this out.

To show how big this issue is, in just over a hundred years, we went from a civilization thinking that flying without the assistance of balloons was mathematically impossible, to putting a helicopter on Mars, and sending probes to visit other planets and moons within our solar system. It is astounding how wrong we were. If you were to take someone from the 1800s and put them in 2022, they would think they're in a science fiction wonderland. They would see with their own eyes things they previously thought were impossible, but also many other things they wouldn't have been able to imagine. Airplanes, the Moon landing, the internet, artificial intelligence, genetic modification, particle colliders, organ transplants, billionaires like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos planning on colonizing space...

Within this century, we will probably have literal interstellar spaceships of our own, although we are starting very small.

About that scientific "consensus," if you sat down a thousand physicists and asked them if they thought interstellar travel for us would be impossible or too difficult regardless of all future technological advances over the next hundred, thousand, or million years, there would be no consensus. Many of the giants in physics don't rule it out. Even Steven Hawking agreed that it can't be ruled out. Michio Kaku and even Enrico Fermi believed it could be possible as well, the man skeptics derive their "Fermi paradox" argument from (although it has several sources).

According to York, Fermi supposed the reason we hadn't been visited "might be that interstellar flight is impossible, or if it is possible, always judged not worth the effort, or technological civilization doesn't last long enough for it to happen".

And according to astronomer Michael Hart, paraphrased:

There may be many habitable Earth-like planets in our Milky Way galaxy. If intelligent life and technological civilization arise on any one of them, that civilization will eventually invent a means of interstellar travel. It will colonize nearby stellar systems. These colonies will send out their own colonizing expeditions, and the process will continue inevitably until every habitable planet in the galaxy has been reached.

The fact that there aren't already aliens here on Earth was therefore supposed to be strong evidence that they don't exist anywhere in the galaxy.

<https://phys.org/news/2015-04-enrico-fermi-extraterrestrial-intelligence.html>

(Side note: Some scientists expect that we should see evidence of alien visitation due to the Drake equation, the fact that we exist and we also plan to travel to the stars, etc. The premise that we don't see evidence of alien visitation assumes that we actually don't, but perhaps we do. UFOs are witnessed quite often, sometimes with occupants. The real issue is that this can still currently be argued against and denied. See Avi Loeb and 'Oumuamua, but there are many examples of "controversial" evidence of alien life. Additionally, according to Seth Shostak, if there were aliens literally orbiting the next star over, we probably wouldn't be able to detect things like inadvertent leakage of their television signals. They would have to deliberately send very powerful signals specifically in our direction.)

Hawking:

Aliens almost certainly exist but humans should avoid making contact, Professor Stephen Hawking has warned.

In a series for the Discovery Channel the renowned astrophysicist said it was "perfectly rational" to assume intelligent life exists elsewhere.

But he warned that aliens might simply raid Earth for resources, then move on.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8642558.stm

Also according to prof. Steven Hawking due to his lack of familiarity with UFOs:

"We don't seem to have been visited by aliens. I am discounting the reports of UFOs. Why would they appear only to cranks and weirdos?" (From around the 5 min mark)

https://www.ted.com/talks/stephen_hawking_questioning_the_universe#t-286325

Had these three men realized the importance and depth of the UFO subject, I believe they may have been the biggest UFO buffs out there. Hawking seems to be quite uninformed about UFOs, or was perhaps the victim of actual government propaganda, since he believes all witnesses are crackpots, which even the government itself admits is not the case, but the point is that there is no consensus on the plausibility of alien visitation or interstellar travel. It's only controversial and that's it.

As mentioned, scientists and engineers thought that 'heavier than air' flying machines (airplanes) were impossible up until just several months before the Wright Bros flight, but there are many, many examples of this. There were the same doubts about going to the Moon. Today some scientists say interstellar travel is impossible, but their confidence level is probably going to age like milk just like many other such claims. Here are some examples:

The number of scientists and engineers who confidently stated that heavier-than-air flight was impossible in the run-up to the Wright brothers' flight is too large to count. Lord Kelvin is probably the best-known. In 1895 he stated that "heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible", only to be proved definitively wrong just eight years later.

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn13556-10-impossibilities-conquered-by-science/>

This one was literally just months before the Wright Bros. flight: Professor Simon Newcomb Demonstrates Mathematically that Flight Cannot be Solved in 1903:
<https://imgur.com/a/riqsJHz>

source

More citations on the impossibility or impracticality of airplanes by scientists and others:

https://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/news/X-Press/stories/2004/013004/res_feathers.html

Dr. J. W. Campbell, Head of Alberta Department of Mathematics and President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, on the impossibility of traveling to the Moon, stated in 1941:

Even though its rockets were fired at a speed of a mile a second, more than twice that of present day artillery shells, a space ship would have to be at least as massive as Mt. Everest to reach the moon and return! This conclusion, which would seem to end all hopes of interplanetary travel for a long time, has been made by Dr. J. W. Campbell, of the University of Alberta, Canada, after a series of mathematical studies... Dr. Campbell's calculations are concerned with the amount of matter that would have to be carried in the ship to get away from the earth, travel to the moon, and back. If the "bullets" from the rockets had a speed of about a mile a second, or twice that of present-day artillery shells, "for every pound of matter returning a million tons would have to start out," he says in the Philosophical Magazine. <https://imgur.com/a/b8bSqQZ>

Scientists also gave reports of meteorites the same treatment as UFOs get until very recently, alleging that rocks cannot fall from space, therefore they didn't. Some were embarrassed of being associated with the idea. One was afraid of being labeled a silly collector of meteorites and had them thrown out of a collection. Even seemingly credible witnesses were said to be believing in "folk tales." Most people of notoriety didn't want to be associated with the idea aside from ridiculing and dismissing it. Sound familiar? Source

In 1912, Continental drift was proposed with significant supporting evidence, but it was widely ridiculed and called pseudoscience, propaganda, etc. It wasn't accepted by the scientific community until the mid 1960s. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/when-continental-drift-was-considered-pseudoscience-90353214/>

An excellent book on this was written by Michio Kaku: Physics of the Impossible. He goes through countless examples of these confident arguments on impossibilities by scientists that turned out to be totally wrong. The good thing is that some scientists are aware that we are still in a technological and scientific infancy. There are huge gaps in our knowledge. There will no doubt be many more scientific revolutions overturning prior convictions. In the grand scheme of things, because we are comparing ourselves to what could easily be million year old civilizations, there is no significant difference between the 1800s and today. Think of how you view clueless people confidently yelling that airplanes are impossible in the late 1800s. This is exactly how you should view people today who claim that interstellar travel is impossible.

You don't want to fall prey to the idea that we have it all figured out now and there isn't much more we can learn.

In 1888, astronomer Simon Newcomb proclaimed, "We are probably nearing the limit of all we can know." At the time, it was believed that the universe comprised some 6,000 stars – a vast expansion of the heavens previously charted by Galileo and Copernicus and Kepler, who had, in turn, radically overhauled the authority of Aristotle's celestial projections. As a man of his era, Newcomb had a point. Having seen farther into the sky than previous generations ever could have imagined, and having settled on a way to explain what we saw there, how much more could we expect to learn? https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/scientists-know-gravity-exists-they-just-dont-know-how-it-works/2019/08/16/7ad9cfe6-9786-11e9-830a-21b9b36b64ad_story.html

Why would we think today that we have it all figured out? Alien technology would likely seem like magic to us at times. As an example of a possible "loophole" for getting around the light speed limit, aside from something like warp drives, according to relativity, time slows down the faster you go. The closer to light speed you can get, the slower time goes relative to the outside of the ship.

According to Special Relativity the mass of an object increases as its speed increases, and approaches infinity as the object's speed approaches the speed of light. This means that it would take an infinite amount of energy to accelerate an object to the speed of light.

There's no fundamental reason why we can't get as close to the speed of light as we like, provided we have enough energy. But this is probably far in the future. https://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/features/cosmic/nearest_star_info.html

But here's the upside: At 90 percent light speed, time slows down by about half, but it gets more extreme from there. At 99.99999 percent light speed, time slows down nearly to a standstill relative to the rest of the Universe, meaning you could travel extremely far distances in a very short time, on the scale of days or weeks, not years. A trip to the nearest star will take one week. What matters most is the time experienced by the occupants of the ship, making things like bringing years worth of food unnecessary. However, time ticks on as per usual in the rest of the Universe, meaning that it would take about 4.3 years to watch the trip take place from a telescope on Earth. Why don't people like to bring up time dilation in discussions of interstellar travel? For more information, see this lecture on interstellar travel and time dilation by Dr. Kevin Knuth, Department of Physics, University at Albany: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXsw03yqzc0>

With this in mind, review the common assumption that the distances are too vast and it would take too long. Are they really if you can basically travel forward in time when you do it? And if you're coasting in a vacuum, there is no additional energy input needed aside from the initial acceleration and then deceleration.

There are other possible solutions of course. If the max speed we can ever achieve is a smaller percentage of light speed, cryogenically freezing the body for the long trip also removes the problem of carrying large amounts of resources for extended periods of time. And there is nothing preventing another civilization from sending self-replicating probes deep into space, so a UFO doesn't necessarily have to be 'manned' either. But if I really had to make a bet, I would say that aliens would probably view traveling to earth like we view a plane trip to Paris. Their million+ year old technology makes it relatively easy to do it, and we have no idea how they do it because we are a brand new civilization that just recently figured out how to travel to our moon. Whether it's achieved through some kind of warp drive, antimatter engines, or something else, there is no good justification for ruling out the possibility.

We are attempting to use a few hundred years of scientific advancement, with scientific revolution after revolution fresh in our memories, to rule out the technological abilities of what might be million-year-old civilizations. From a cosmic perspective, that argument should sound completely absurd to you.

Edit: added more info

208

.

57

Comments Section

AutoModerator

MOD

•

2y ago

swentech

•

4y ago

Some of these civilizations could be millions of years ahead of us. Does anyone know what could be accomplished in a million years of physics and technological advances? No one knows so the question cannot be definitively answered.

32

[deleted]

•

4y ago

I'll look at the technological leap we have taken in the last 50 years from 1970 to 2020 and say that no one knows where we will be by 2100

19

Oxiron

•

4y ago

I'd even say 2050, we started moving faster.

7

WordLion

•

4y ago

It depends. We might live in a world of marvels, or we might be carving out spears and shields for combat in World War IV.

6

1 more reply

pab_guy

•

4y ago

Time dilation means the long distances aren't much of a problem for the beings travelling.

"But they can't go home!" - Well maybe they don't want or need to? Maybe they already moved here and this IS home!

Maybe they are immortal and don't have effective lifespans or are digitally conscious, so time doesn't really matter, they have an unlimited amount of it.

OR... maybe "home" is parked around a black hole, such that time is dilated at home, and therefore "home" travels just as fast into the future as your interstellar travellers.

There are plenty of possible solutions to interstellar travel...

24

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

For sure. The issue of not being able to go home is based on the premise that they are coming from thousands/millions of light years away. If they are migrating like we plan on doing, that is no longer an issue.

If we take a trip to the nearest star and back at 99.9+ percent light speed, the astronauts' time and earth time will only be different by 8.6 years, with the astronauts being younger. If we had "rest stops" in between, the difference becomes even less. So it only takes a small number of the individuals in the farthest reaches of our species to make our reach even farther. I don't see why there would be a limit to that, especially as the years go on and we continue to improve our technology. There is no reason why we can't create self replicating robots to create such rest stops and terraformed planets ahead of us.

6

u/Ardragos avatar

Ardragos

•

4y ago

It's like someone from the 17th century saying humans will never fly, just because that someone cannot understand the physics we now can and because he has never seen a flying human in his life.

41

AntiSocialBlogger

•

4y ago

Poppycock!

7

u/TBoneBaggetteBaggins avatar

TBoneBaggetteBaggins

•

4y ago

Ive never seen a human fly either

4

1 more reply

u/google-gmail avatar

google-gmail

•

4y ago

The problem is that today's theories are based on Einstein's theory of relativity when it comes to space travel.

And the reason that unlimited energy is needed is because the atomic field of an object moving in space reacts to the field of space, which creates resistance to the motion of the object.

Aliens have found a way to surround the moving object in space, a "spaceship" in the field of space itself and this allows the body to move without resistance. When this field is strong enough the body will move at a speed that exceeds the speed of light.

These fields exist in balance in the atomic fields and also in space itself but when you change the balance it allows you to eliminate the resistance that this balance creates and thus creates an interaction with one of the fields exclusively.

12

u/jmooneyham2004 avatar

jmooneyham2004

•

4y ago

Very well put together post, thank you for the interesting and thought provoking read!

4

u/Pazzazuu avatar

Pazzazuu

•

4y ago

Maybe aliens don't have finite lifespans, or for some other reason they experience time in a different way to us. And so what seems like to us an unimaginably long time to travel somewhere isn't actually a big issue for them.

9

Impossible_Monitor32

•

4y ago

Is it possible that the secret to interstellar travel is the bending of spacetime, creating wormholes, stargates, portals etc. Massive amounts of power needed I know, but there would be no need for speed & time dilation may not be a variable. I wonder.

6

yer_muther

•

4y ago

The math would suggest that yes you can however unlike most science leading up to the modern era we don't have many (or any) examples in the natural world to examine. This is where people got astray when they make statement like flying was once thought impossible, well sort of. We had examples to look at in nature. Fission was thought to be impossible, except there are natural examples to study.

Much of modern physics is purely mathematics so proving or disproving becomes problematic to say the least.

5

JTGPDx

•

4y ago

But he warned that aliens might simply raid Earth for resources, then move on.

That might explain the willingness of those with money and power to make the Earth uninhabitable for humans...

11

MossyMoose2

•

4y ago

Amazing, and from a very knowledgeable individual.

Nothing to add but support MK.



15

u/tomacco_man avatar

tomacco_man

•

4y ago

My biggest problem with traveling at or near the speed of light is navigating away from space debris. If you are traveling so fast, how can you pilot a ship or set coordinates that will automatically dodge asteroids? Even the tiniest bit of space rock would obliterate any vessel traveling that fast.

5

2 more replies

NutInYurThroatEatAss

•

4y ago

For those of you who haven't read The Dark Forest:

Recap of the book for those who don't want to read a hundred billion pages.

spoilers

So it starts off with like this witch in Constantinople, only time magic has existed on earth but they kill her. Then it goes to modern day, some Chinese woman is like "hello aliens." Then some rogue trisolaran is like "stfu they'll hear you." Then she is like "lmao k, my parents aren't home come over." Then the trisolarans hop in the slowest space ships imaginable to travel 400 years to get to earth.

Then earth is like "fuck." So all the militarys decide they need to protect against this and form like a space navy. Then they find out about sofans which are like unfolded by making a 2 dimensional atom and putting a circuitboard on the inside and recording it and shooting it at us at the speed of light. They basically are cameras with 4 years of lag for the trisolarans. So nothing that is written down is safe from trisolarans. Also earth decides to send some chinese dudes brain at 1% the speed of light using a nuclear railway in space. The United Nations decides these dudes named sword holders should come up with a plan entirely within their head but not tell anybody because sofans will learn what the plot is.

Some police officer in China is talked about like a shit ton of times but idk why 🤔. For the sword holders they choose a bunch of super smart people and then some random Chinese dude. These guys are given a lot of power. One dude tries to blow up mercury and gets stoned to death in Venezuela. The random Chinese dude decided to use his power to get some godpussy. Then he becomes an alcoholic. Then he is like "let's just broadcast the coordinates of trisolaris to space. " genius. But they don't they just tell trisolaris to go tf home.

Fast forward like a lot of years into the future and earth has 3 space navy fleets. Asia, America, and everyone else. Somehow they end up in 4 dimensional space. Then eventually this this Droplet (gotita for the spaniards) is sent from trisolaris. It eventually fucks up the entire fleet of earth and then trisolaris comes at basically the speed of light to earth. Trisolaris causes like a big ass holocaust and humanity gets sent to Australia AU.

Then the Chinese dude broadcasts their coordinates, Some alien janitor shoots a thing to destroy trisolaris. Then he shoots a transdimensional bomb to destroy earth's solar system by turning it from 3D to 2D. Then some lady escapes along with sofan (who is now a woman) and goes like 80 billion years in the future. Then they go live in a pocket universe until the end of time and then time ends and the book is basically over. Hope my recap helped.

11

u/tomacco_man avatar

tomacco_man

•

4y ago

Wow

6

CK-Eire

•

4y ago

We also can't know what we don't know. It's the whole asking pre-industrial era people about what the best form of transportation would be, they'd reply "faster horses."

We still fall into this fallacy. Until 100 years ago we knew nothing about the Quantum Realm. Entanglement effects move outside materialist physical laws, faster than light. Could a super advanced species have harnessed this. Hell yeah. But quantum doesn't translate to macro. Hop on your faster horse cowboy.

And what's that, a fifth fundamental force of nature:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/56643677>

What?!! We didn't have it all figured out!!! Not to mention what happens when we crack fusion power, warp drives being theoretically possible:
<https://theconversation.com/warp-drives-physicists-give-chances-of-faster-than-light-space-travel-a-boost-157391>

Why scoff. We don't know what we don't know. Technology can take quantum leaps (pun intended) in very short spaces of time.

You make a great point in this OP, nicely said, more people need to open their minds. Impossible or a "yeah right" attitude is not scientific. Impossible has been proven wrong way, way too many times.

4

[deleted]

•

4y ago
cosmiccarrion

•

4y ago
PREACH. Excellent summation of these points, I think about this all the goddam time. Our species is young, we've barely scratched the surface in understanding reality. It's arrogant and dogmatic to outright dismiss UFOs and other phenomena.

10
CH3FLIFE

•

4y ago
Why do you assume that they are not already here?

4
Spacecowboy78

•

4y ago
Unless every single one of the witnesses has been lying (for no reason but to be labeled a crank) there are different types and species of beings passing by the planet every day. After years of nonstop study, I am fairly certain the space around our planet is littered with small craft and large craft filled with nomadic, bilateral humanoid creatures.

We can't see anything from Earth that is under a certain size, so how would we know a bunch of alien ships are passing by? By all the people who keep seeing them land. That's how.

5
Head-Mathematician53

•

4y ago
This is how I see light speed travel to other star systems...I see the premise parallel and analogous to the rubber bands on a sling shot or wristrocket being pulled to such an extreme degree causing such pressure and tension in space and collecting and accruing and amassing charged cosmic particles that are everywhere in space that it bends or curves space and it's a pressure release type of system...the contraction of the pulled rubber bands far and extreme enough creates an extreme pressure tension condensed point which when released generates blinding velocity of the projectile...I think this is the base premise for bending or curving space with extreme pressure tension and contraction that it establishes and creates a point of concentrated energy that when released jettisons the projectile at unbelievable velocities....think of FTL travel like a slingshot or wrist rocket or pulling a rubber band between your fingers...imagine the curvature of space the bands are creating and

forming...the alternating timeline curves that begin to form create an accrued amount of energies in a point in space and then release the bands...now imagine being enveloped in some insane bright white light all around you as your craft is bending Spacetime to such a degree , you can't see Jack for Jack , but perhaps have created some type of opening in space where everything seems still and light...and in a few hours you're in the alpha centauri system getting sexually molested by a translucent long haired female...

2

Mnemnosine

•

4y ago

Well sheeeeyit... if all I gotta do to have my very own UFO experience is to become a crank and/or a weirdo then rodeeeeo! I'll just grow out a skullet, don a banana hammock and a lab coat, and run into the nearest National Park screaming the lyrics to "Freebird", with a custom-built jury rig for a high-powered flashlight aimed right at my sweet white cheeks advertising my willingness for colo-rectal homeopathic therapy as applied by Bigfoot or little green men, whichever finds me first (and I somehow avoid getting eaten by bears).

Who knew it was that easy? Why hasn't the US Govt already gotten on this?

2

RealityStudio

•

4y ago

For what it's worth, as some linked above, some German scientists have worked out how to do space warping without the negative energy that Alcubierre's solution required. I mean, we still can't generate that much energy yet but that was just in thirty years since the original work so it does seem pretty plausible that eventually it will happen.

2

u/ImAvarian avatar

ImAvarian

•

4y ago

What a wonderful write up.

2

u/NeilofErk avatar

NeilofErk

•

4y ago

The reason interstellar travel is a good argument (against the ET hypothesis) is that, if these creatures can vastly exceed the speed of light, have no problems with the consequences of time dilation, and can endure the tremendous forces involved in all that, a lot of their observed behavior on earth makes no sense.

They seem to be trying to work stealthily, yet they let themselves be seen. Almost every abduction follows a strict routine that includes medical or scientific testing, which they absolutely shouldn't need to do at their level of sophistication. Sighting at various points in history seem to fit that time periods expectation of what futuristic technology would be like. Other oddities go on and on.

Altogether, the ET explanation for aliens has serious incongruities. Alternatives like ultraterrestrials avoid a lot of these problems.

4

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

That's kind of why I cited the fact that the airplane was invented literally just a couple months after it was (probably) last declared mathematically impossible. We don't really know when we will achieve interstellar travel. Given historical precedent, we really shouldn't be surprised if it's within a few centuries, if not sooner.

I also wouldn't confuse alien abduction with alien visitation. They are separate topics, and I would even separate the topic of alien abduction into several categories. If one category of this concept is crazy as hell, that doesn't mean literally all of it is crazy as hell, and it certainly doesn't mean alien visitation in general is also crazy as hell.

An oddity of the government is that they were super interested in manipulating your perception of the UFO topic. Historical fact.

Sighting at various points in history seem to fit that time periods expectation of what futuristic technology would be like

It's more like somebody in 1890 didn't really have a good understanding of aviation since airplanes weren't invented yet, so they might be more likely to describe something like an advanced airship. Airships were around in this time period, as well as ideas on what technology might be like in the future. We describe them in ways that we project technology would be like in the near future because that's all we have, and sometimes we are accurate. That's all. You also have to factor in the fact that not all of these weird accounts are even real. People make stuff up sometimes, so I would put more weight behind cases where more than one person witnessed the show, especially if there is evidence, like ground traces.

Somebody from a very long time ago might've described UFOs as flying shields. You might have heard that triangular UFOs supplanted the flying saucer, but this is not true. Sources:

https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/onj9m3/a_brief_history_of_triangular_uaps/h5s3wfw/ Flying saucers are still seen today if you look through the NUFORC website. Triangular UFOs go back to 1960, the 1800s, <https://archive.org/details/TheFlyingSaucersAreReal/page/n65/mode/2up> etc. The idea that UFOs are slowly following our advancement is probably not correct. The 2006 O'Hare incident, 2007 Costa Rica, etc as examples.

8

[deleted]

•

4y ago

. The closest star is 4.3 light years away. That's less than 5, not 7 million light years.

That is still over 2.5 trillion miles away. You make it sound like a short distance when it isn't. So far the fastest recorded object travels at 30 million miles per hour. Even that object will take over 83,000 years to travel from the nearest star to us.

As for all of that about traveling at/near the speed of light? There is no such thing as infinite energy, which what you'd need for that. So it's not an option.

4

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

That is still over 2.5 trillion miles away. You make it sound like a short distance when it isn't. So far the fastest recorded object travels at 30 million miles per hour. Even that object will take over 83,000 years to travel from the nearest star to us.

There is no physical barrier to traveling 99.9 etc light speed, meaning that it doesn't really matter how many miles you cite as making it too difficult. By going these speeds, you are basically also traveling forward in time, so it doesn't actually take that long. If the trip takes a week and you coasted almost all the way there because you're in a vacuum, what does it matter if you tell me it was a 2.5 trillion mile trip?

"Among the speed demons of the universe are Jupiter-sized blobs of hot gas embedded in streams of material ejected from hyperactive galaxies known as blazars. Last week at a meeting here of the American Astronomical Society, scientists announced they had measured blobs in blazar jets screaming through space at 99.9 percent of light-speed. To accelerate a bowling ball to the speed newly measured in these blazars would require all the energy produced in the world for an entire week," Piner said. "And the blobs of plasma in these jets are at least as massive as a large planet." <https://www.space.com/694-blazing-speed-fastest-stuff-universe.html>

I'm also comparing the common assumption that aliens have to travel millions of light years to the reality that there are all kinds of planets in our own neighborhood, and humans are already considering colonizing the Moon and Mars.

On the 2006 O'Hare Airport incident: "To fly 7 million light years to O'Hare and then have to turn around and go home because your gate was occupied is simply unacceptable," said O'Hare controller and union official Craig Burzych. <https://web.archive.org/web/20071117073414/http://www.chicagotribune.com/classified/automotive/columnists/chi-0701010141jan01,0,5874175.column?page=1&coll=chi-newsnationworldiraq-hed>

As for all of that about traveling at/near the speed of light? There is no such thing as infinite energy, which what you'd need for that. So it's not an option.

Where did I say aliens can travel at the speed of light? I'm saying that we aren't really that different from cavemen, all things considered, and we are missing many, many pieces of the puzzle. From a historical perspective, you should be a lot less confident in your argument than you are currently. Remember, airplanes are impossible, and if we want to travel to the Moon, we need a rocket at least as massive as Mt. Everest. Perhaps we are missing something, making the wrong assumptions, etc. Einstein said nuclear energy would never be attainable.

On 29 December 1934, Albert Einstein was quoted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as saying, "There is not the slightest indication that [nuclear energy] will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will." This followed the discovery that year by Enrico Fermi that if you bombard uranium with neutrons, the uranium atoms split up into lighter elements, releasing energy.

Einstein's scepticism was, however, overtaken by events. By 1939, nuclear fission was better understood and researchers had realised that a chain reaction – one that, once started, would drive itself at increasing rates – could produce a huge explosion. In late 1942, such a chain reaction was produced experimentally, and on August 6 1945 the first atomic bomb used aggressively exploded over Hiroshima. Ironically, Fleet Admiral William Leahy allegedly told President Truman: "This is the biggest fool thing we've ever done – the bomb will never go off – and I speak as an expert on explosives." <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn13556-10-impossibilities-conquered-by-science/>

Are we going to create antimatter engines? Warp drives? What about after that?

We can already envision ways to achieve it, and we are a brand new technological civilization. In a million years, do you really think we will never achieve interstellar travel? It's only going to be like 50 years at best before we send tiny probes to the nearest star using light sails, which will be accelerated to 20 percent light speed. It's only a matter of time after that.

7

6 more replies

2 more replies

Even-Seaworthiness37

•

4y ago

The Law of One

0

[View more comments](#)

[Related Answers Section](#)

[Related Answers](#)

[Famous hoaxes in the world of UFOs and aliens](#)

[The science behind ghost hunting equipment](#)

[Famous hoaxes in the world of cryptozoology](#)

[Exploring the phenomenon of sleep paralysis](#)

[Unusual weather phenomena and their mysteries](#)

[New to Reddit?](#)

[Create your account and connect with a world of communities.](#)

[Continue With Phone Number](#)

By continuing, you agree to our [User Agreement](#) and acknowledge that you understand the [Privacy Policy](#).

[More posts you may like](#)

[The most compelling UFO evidence known to man](#)

[r/HighStrangeness](#) icon

[r/HighStrangeness](#)

•

5mo ago

[The most compelling UFO evidence known to man](#)

[r/HighStrangeness](#) - [The most compelling UFO evidence known to man](#)

4K upvotes · 769 comments

[What could be the scariest truth about the UFO phenomenon?](#)

[r/HighStrangeness](#) icon

[r/HighStrangeness](#)

•

9mo ago

[What could be the scariest truth about the UFO phenomenon?](#)

[r/HighStrangeness](#) - [What could be the scariest truth about the UFO phenomenon?](#)

707 upvotes · 878 comments

[In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.](#)

[r/aliens](#) icon

[r/aliens](#)

•

20d ago

[In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.](#)

[r/aliens](#) - [In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.](#)

80 upvotes · 12 comments

[Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?](#)

[r/aliens](#) icon

[r/aliens](#)

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

125 upvotes · 124 comments

The UFO Phenomenon Is Weirder Than You Think

r/HighStrangeness icon

r/HighStrangeness

•

5mo ago

The UFO Phenomenon Is Weirder Than You Think

544 upvotes · 125 comments

NASA has many High-resolution Photos of UFOs or Alien Spacecraft! See the testimony of a former NASA employee!

r/HighStrangeness icon

r/HighStrangeness

•

10mo ago

NASA has many High-resolution Photos of UFOs or Alien Spacecraft! See the testimony of a former NASA employee!

r/HighStrangeness - NASA has many High-resolution Photos of UFOs or Alien Spacecraft! See the testimony of a former NASA employee!

357 upvotes · 122 comments

A serious theory about UFOs and why they might actually come from Earth

r/AliensRHere icon

r/AliensRHere

•

19d ago

A serious theory about UFOs and why they might actually come from Earth

94 upvotes · 62 comments

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

259 upvotes · 105 comments

Why are many folks convinced that when aliens publicly present themselves and reveal the secrets of the universe, they will be telling the truth?

r/HighStrangeness icon

r/HighStrangeness

•

1y ago

Why are many folks convinced that when aliens publicly present themselves and reveal the secrets of the universe, they will be telling the truth?

224 upvotes · 175 comments

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

13 upvotes · 41 comments

Has anyone read into the theory that alien sightings and abductions are actually not beings from space but rather something we've all had from the very beginning on Earth?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

2mo ago

Has anyone read into the theory that alien sightings and abductions are actually not beings from space but rather something we've all had from the very beginning on Earth?

390 upvotes · 104 comments

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien - A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

thehiddenarchive

354 upvotes · 149 comments

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences?

r/HighStrangeness icon

r/HighStrangeness

•

5mo ago

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences?

r/HighStrangeness - Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences?

67 upvotes · 35 comments

Americans Are Increasingly Convinced That Aliens Have Visited Earth

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

11d ago

Americans Are Increasingly Convinced That Aliens Have Visited Earth

r/alien - Americans Are Increasingly Convinced That Aliens Have Visited Earth

wired

1K upvotes · 86 comments

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

45 upvotes · 34 comments

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/alien - On The Origin of UFOs.

1K upvotes · 29 comments

A Kentucky family claimed they were under siege by aliens for hours. 11

witnesses. Police involvement. No explanation to this day. Thoughts on this one?

r/HighStrangeness icon

r/HighStrangeness

•

7mo ago

A Kentucky family claimed they were under siege by aliens for hours. 11

witnesses. Police involvement. No explanation to this day. Thoughts on this one?

r/HighStrangeness - A Kentucky family claimed they were under siege by aliens

for hours. 11 witnesses. Police involvement. No explanation to this day.

Thoughts on this one?

thehiddenarchive

297 upvotes · 115 comments

UFO Whistleblower recounts his personal encounter with a large triangular UFO.
r/HighStrangeness icon
r/HighStrangeness

•

4mo ago

UFO Whistleblower recounts his personal encounter with a large triangular UFO.
742 upvotes · 51 comments

What are some entry level methods a regular guy like me could try communicating with aliens?

r/HighStrangeness icon
r/HighStrangeness

•

4d ago

What are some entry level methods a regular guy like me could try communicating with aliens?

47 upvotes · 130 comments

Astronomer says it's possible that aliens are already living among us.

r/HighStrangeness icon
r/HighStrangeness

•

20d ago

Astronomer says it's possible that aliens are already living among us.

r/HighStrangeness - Astronomer says it's possible that aliens are already living among us.

com

148 upvotes · 56 comments

What do you guys personally believe when it comes to extraterrestrials?

r/aliens icon
r/aliens

•

3mo ago

What do you guys personally believe when it comes to extraterrestrials?

68 upvotes · 214 comments

Ufo Sighting!

r/HighStrangeness icon
r/HighStrangeness

•

17d ago

Ufo Sighting!

r/HighStrangeness - Ufo Sighting!

126 upvotes · 40 comments

Ufo Sighting!

r/HighStrangeness icon
r/HighStrangeness

•

2mo ago

Ufo Sighting!

r/HighStrangeness - Ufo Sighting!

92 upvotes · 35 comments

NY TIMES Reporter: Intelligence Sources have touched UFO craft and seen bodies

r/AliensRHere icon
r/AliensRHere

•

3mo ago

NY TIMES Reporter: Intelligence Sources have touched UFO craft and seen bodies

57 upvotes · 6 comments

Community Info Section

r/HighStrangeness

Join

High Strangeness

Explorations of the Paranormal, UFOs, Ancient Cultures, Cryptozoology, Consciousness, Futurism, Fringe Science, Anomalies, Animal Mutilations, and instances of High Strangeness.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of January 18, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of January 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

29 ads blocked

11% space saved!Skip to main content

Why are most if not all UFO sightings I've seen on TV, YouTube and other sources located in the United States? : r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UFOs icon

Go to UFOs

r/UFOs

•

6y ago

[deleted]

Why are most if not all UFO sightings I've seen on TV, YouTube and other sources located in the United States?

Sorry, this post was deleted by the person who originally posted it.

4

•

24

Comments Section

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

•

6y ago

France:

There have been thousands of UFO reports in France, of which about 400 remain unexplainable. <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-29755919>

France also released 1600 cases registered since 1954. See here:

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn11443-france-opens-up-its-ufo-files/>

See: GEIPAN (thus named since September 2005), formerly known as GEPAN (1977-1988) and SEPRA (1988-2004), is a unit of the French Space Agency CNES whose brief is to investigate unidentified aerospace phenomena (UAP) and make its findings available to the public.

Also see the unofficial French COMETA Report.

Here is Canada:

The talk and presentation mark Rutkowski's donation to University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections of his extensive personal collection and files on this case and other UFO sightings and related phenomena from across Canada. These include more than 20,000 separate UFO reports filed with various agencies since 1989 <https://news.umanitoba.ca/the-falcon-lake-ufo-files/>

Also see this:

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/unusual/ufo/Pages/default.aspx>

Denmark:

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Jan. 30 (UPI) -- The Danish Air Force has released 329 pages of previously classified archives on UFO sightings, including details on more than 200 unsolved cases. <https://archive.is/6bFAo>

New Zealand:

The New Zealand military have released hundreds of previously classified reports detailing claims of UFO sightings and alien encounters.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/ufo/8221227/New-Zealand-releases-UFO-files.html>

UK government:

Over the past 11 years, the MoD has declassified 60,000 pages exposing the secrets of a government investigation into unexplained sightings over the UK. <https://metro.co.uk/2019/06/04/ministry-defence-releases-final-x-files-containing-truth-britains-secret-ufo-investigations-9797436/>

Newly released UFO files from the UK government

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ufos/>

Germany. Here is an interesting article:

"Germany has a high level of UFO sightings," Robert Fleischer, the coordinator for the German Initiative for Exopolitics, told Deutsche Welle.

He said that, since 1974, over 500 so-called "real" UFO cases - reported sightings that, after careful consideration by specialized experts, cannot be related to any conventional information - have been recorded.

"However, there has never been any official recognition by the German government relating to UFOs or UFO activity," Fleischer added. "So if the Germans were to open any files relating to UFOs, all we would find out is that they pass all their information to the Americans." <https://www.dw.com/en/despite-partial-disclosure-europes-ufo-files-remain-mostly-under-wraps/a-4783950>

The Belgian government was also pretty open about UFOs, at least regarding their massive 1989-1990 triangle UFO wave. A lot can be found online about this. Here is Belgian Air Force General Wilfried De Brouwer discussing the case:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdEALPvL_4Q&feature=youtu.be

More on the Belgian sightings and the politics of studying UFOs in Europe:

<https://www.politico.eu/article/scepticism-set-to-scupper-any-chance-of-union-led-ufo-research/>

As you can clearly see, plenty of foreign UFO reports exist. You may have also fallen for those posts that use NUFORC as a sole data source, falsely implying that UFOs are only a US phenomenon. NUFORC and MUFON will be mainly US reports. NUFORC has only 5 thousand foreign UFO reports, and only 400 from Canada (compare that to the above information). I suppose if you're sitting in Guatemala and you know about NUFORC, you might send them a report? However, many countries have their own reporting databases, and I doubt NUFORC advertises much

outside the US. This means all of those posts and graphs you've seen that imply over 90 percent of UFO reports occur in the US are misleading. All of those that I have seen used Nuforc as a source of information. Another problem is the language barrier.

17

DonaldoTrumpe

•

6y ago

Thanks, I appreciate it. I'll check them out.

3

u/vogut avatar

vogut

•

6y ago

Brazil:

Varginha

Operation Saucer

The official night of ufos

All well documented by the brazilian army/airforce.

Here in Brazil we have A LOT of minor cases, but I'm afraid you won't find easily because those reports aren't translated to english. Edison Boaventura (an ufo specialist) does a good job reporting those cases here.

There's a city here called "Iporanga" some people says it's a hotspot for ufo encounters.

3

BeboTheMaster

•

5y ago

Make this an actual post on the sub

1

cmach86

•

6y ago

Cause that's all you search for I guess. Brazil has plenty, as well as Chile, the uk, Russia... All over man.

8

[deleted]

•

6y ago

Try searching:-

Rendllssham Forest UFO.

Alan Godfrey Todmorden.

The Falkirk Triangle.

The Warminster thing.

Bempton Lights.

To get you started on U.K. ones.

4
fike88

•

6y ago
Bonnybridge in Scotland too

4
[deleted]

•

6y ago
In my country (Czech Republic) we had couple of incidents. But I get your point, also South America seems kinda heavy on these videos and encounters.

4
u/OpenLinez avatar
OpenLinez

•

6y ago
Blesk used to have a weekly UFO section in the 90s and 2000s in the print edition. Loved that stuff.

For those who read/understand Russian, there's a rich history of Russian, Soviet and Warsaw Pact reports floating around on old blogs and message boards. An internationally well-known mass sighting with entities and High Strangeness occurred in Voronezh, 27 September 1989.

<https://www.lavozdelnorte.cl/2019/09/caso-voronezh-a-30-anos-del-aterrizaje-de-una-supuesta-nave-extraterrestre-en-una-plaza-de-la-ex-urss/>

<https://apnews.com/5117ff1e9d2da3160174e7d9c8cbb6c4>

2
SoundCA

•

6y ago
I really think it has to do with all the nuclear testing we did and we have all the alien spaceship parts so there's watching us.

2
M8ten7

•

6y ago
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/1561_celestial_phenomenon_over_Nuremberg

1
M8ten7

•

6y ago
This is one week old in Germany. 10-15 people called the police. Even the police witnessed it. They sent a helicopter but it wasn't there anymore.

<https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/baden-wuerttemberg/stuttgart/ufo-ueber-waiblingen-gesichtet-100.html>

1
[deleted]

•

6y ago
Because the US is the current global cultural hegemon, most of the foreign culture you consume is gonna be from the US.

When was the last time you saw for example a film from another European country that's not yours? It probably doesn't happen often if at all, right? Same with UFOs.

1
Traditional-Block782

- 6y ago
Don't forget that the majority of these sightings are easily explained and on top of that there still are numerous sightings or encounters that are proven to be hoaxes.

With the prevalence of drones, that number has increased even more in the last several years. But I have seen plenty of videos and written accounts from all over the world. In fact some of the most compelling stories that come to mind is the Westall incident in Australia, the Tehran incident in Iran, the Rendlesham Forest incident in the UK to list just a few examples.

We have had our share here as well but the phenomenon definitely is not limited to the United States and the number proven to be authentic is probably very small. Maybe others here can chime in and shed some light on your question as well.

1
[deleted]

- 6y ago
We have a lot more sky to look at. Ohio is the size of Poland. Also... America wastes tons of money on secret military black projects. Most of what we see are probably our own tech being tested.

1
u/OpenLinez avatar
OpenLinez

- 6y ago
Less than 20% of YouTube uploads are in English, so the best way to see non-US stuff is to look for videos in other languages. Spanish, German, Mandarin and Portuguese get lots of results; make sure to search for the popular term in that language for UFOs ("ovni" in Spanish, for instance).

Classic work of French and continental Europe UFO encounters is by Aimé Michel. His books are available in French, German and English. Here's a list of his books: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aim%C3%A9_Michel#Works

1
u/Viktorv22 avatar
Viktorv22

- 6y ago
Try searching "ovni" which is ufo word in Spanish I think, same with other languages

Brazil has ton of them, Russia, Chille - Peru has some remarkable concetration of sightnings, etc...

1
ZebraShark

- 6y ago
Listened to a podcast on conspiracies and basically said that belief in UFOs is uniquely high in the US compared to other countries.

Not surprising then people in the US when they see something in the sky are more likely to film it and believe it is a UFO compared to other places which will dismiss it.

1

TheCoastalCardician

•

6y ago

If it helps, I live in New England USA and never talked to someone or heard of someone that saw anything.

1

u/GrandMasterReddit avatar

GrandMasterReddit

•

6y ago

You're not looking hard enough

1

devzad

•

6y ago

probably because most tv and youtube you watch is american

1

[deleted]

•

6y ago

u/Seangsxr34 avatar

Seangsxr34

•

6y ago

Same reason most unbelievable conspiracy theories come from there, I mean have you seen the president?

1

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

What did I See today??

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6d ago

What did I See today??

r/UFOs - What did I See today??

3

6.5K upvotes · 1.4K comments

3 fast moving objects captured with infrared camera - Nov. 24, 2025 around 10pm PST - Los Angeles, CA

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

3 fast moving objects captured with infrared camera - Nov. 24, 2025 around 10pm PST - Los Angeles, CA

r/UFOs - 3 fast moving objects captured with infrared camera - Nov. 24, 2025 around 10pm PST - Los Angeles, CA

5.6K upvotes · 484 comments
Campinas, Brazil 25 of december
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

3d ago
Campinas, Brazil 25 of december
r/UFOs - Campinas, Brazil 25 of december
4.7K upvotes · 29 comments
Goldmine of UAP activity in NightVision sub
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

1d ago
Goldmine of UAP activity in NightVision sub
r/UFOs - Goldmine of UAP activity in NightVision sub
3.6K upvotes · 415 comments
Unknown object casts shadow on our moon - Official NASA photos
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

5d ago
Unknown object casts shadow on our moon - Official NASA photos
r/UFOs - Unknown object casts shadow on our moon - Official NASA photos
2

2.8K upvotes · 131 comments
My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

2d ago
My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down
r/UFOs - My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down
2.8K upvotes · 263 comments
30x zoom in Austria 2 days ago... i have no clue what i saw. It was fast and silent and i think it was big
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

4d ago
30x zoom in Austria 2 days ago... i have no clue what i saw. It was fast and silent and i think it was big
r/UFOs - 30x zoom in Austria 2 days ago... i have no clue what i saw. It was fast and silent and i think it was big
2

1.7K upvotes · 317 comments
Palmer Luckey, founder of Anduril Industries, says UAPs likely come from the distant past, understanding them will render current technology 'irrelevant' - "If and when we figure out what's going on with UAPs, UFOs, that whole universe - Everything's gonna change."
r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

7d ago
Palmer Luckey, founder of Anduril Industries, says UAPs likely come from the distant past, understanding them will render current technology 'irrelevant' - "If and when we figure out what's going on with UAPs, UFOs, that whole universe - Everything's gonna change."
r/UFOs - Palmer Luckey, founder of Anduril Industries, says UAPs likely come from the distant past, understanding them will render current technology 'irrelevant' - "If and when we figure out what's going on with UAPs, UFOs, that whole universe - Everything's gonna change."
1.5K upvotes · 408 comments
Interdimensionals, DMT-entities, angels. Garry Nolan said the intelligence

community thinks the greys are avatars, intermediaries. He was threatened with death. Eric Davis: "these craft behave like a spiritual entity". Vallee: "there are undisclosed experiments on how to communicate with aliens"

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

Interdimensionals, DMT-entities, angels. Garry Nolan said the intelligence community thinks the greys are avatars, intermediaries. He was threatened with death. Eric Davis: "these craft behave like a spiritual entity". Vallee: "there are undisclosed experiments on how to communicate with aliens"

993 upvotes · 235 comments

UFO Sighting 25 December 2025 11:00 AM , Campinas,Brazil

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

UFO Sighting 25 December 2025 11:00 AM , Campinas,Brazil

r/UFOs - UFO Sighting 25 December 2025 11:00 AM , Campinas,Brazil

963 upvotes · 50 comments

What would be the "disturbing truth" humans can't handle?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4d ago

What would be the "disturbing truth" humans can't handle?

946 upvotes · 1.4K comments

JFK was briefed on the reality of UAP/NHI on December 7, 1962, following the Bluegill Triple Prime incident

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4d ago

JFK was briefed on the reality of UAP/NHI on December 7, 1962, following the Bluegill Triple Prime incident

939 upvotes · 88 comments

New and historic images, unseen for 50 years, related to the Travis Walton case are revealed. Among them are records of the moment when the official Arizona state polygraph examiner confirmed that the six men with Travis Walton passed the lie detector tests.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6d ago

New and historic images, unseen for 50 years, related to the Travis Walton case are revealed. Among them are records of the moment when the official Arizona state polygraph examiner confirmed that the six men with Travis Walton passed the lie detector tests.

r/UFOs - New and historic images, unseen for 50 years, related to the Travis Walton case are revealed. Among them are records of the moment when the official Arizona state polygraph examiner confirmed that the six men with Travis Walton passed the lie detector tests.

com

897 upvotes · 56 comments

If You Actually Watch the Latest WEAPONIZED With Jacques Vallée, He Basically Says a US Lab Spoke With a Non-Human Controller Entity - How Is That Not the Main Story?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3d ago

If You Actually Watch the Latest WEAPONIZED With Jacques Vallée, He Basically Says a US Lab Spoke With a Non-Human Controller Entity - How Is That Not the Main Story?

871 upvotes · 291 comments

NASA Physicist Dr. Yu Explains Why UFOs Spin, and Why There Is Always Light.. - Most of you were probably aware of this already, but I like the way Dr. Yu explains to Clayton why UFOs spin.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

15h ago

NASA Physicist Dr. Yu Explains Why UFOs Spin, and Why There Is Always Light.. - Most of you were probably aware of this already, but I like the way Dr. Yu explains to Clayton why UFOs spin.

r/UFOs - NASA Physicist Dr. Yu Explains Why UFOs Spin, and Why There Is Always Light.. - Most of you were probably aware of this already, but I like the way Dr. Yu explains to Clayton why UFOs spin.

745 upvotes · 104 comments

Streaming in 30 minutes: Jacques Vallee reveals how 20 years ago the U.S. Government was as able to establish direct communications with an NHI. "a very sophisticated process by which we may be able to interact with the entities"

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6d ago

Streaming in 30 minutes: Jacques Vallee reveals how 20 years ago the U.S. Government was as able to establish direct communications with an NHI. "a very sophisticated process by which we may be able to interact with the entities"

740 upvotes · 206 comments

NHI left perfectly intact UFOs outside military bases according to Hal Puthoff and Dan Farah - "Some of the craft of non-human origin that had been recovered were crashes, but some of them were almost like gifts. They were found outside military bases in perfect condition."

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

NHI left perfectly intact UFOs outside military bases according to Hal Puthoff and Dan Farah - "Some of the craft of non-human origin that had been recovered were crashes, but some of them were almost like gifts. They were found outside military bases in perfect condition."

r/UFOs - NHI left perfectly intact UFOs outside military bases according to Hal Puthoff and Dan Farah - "Some of the craft of non-human origin that had been recovered were crashes, but some of them were almost like gifts. They were found outside military bases in perfect condition."

736 upvotes · 240 comments

ER doctor here—2024 NJ drone/UAP flap sent me down the rabbit hole. Ended up writing a book on why consciousness might be the missing piece. Thoughts?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6d ago

ER doctor here—2024 NJ drone/UAP flap sent me down the rabbit hole. Ended up writing a book on why consciousness might be the missing piece. Thoughts?

665 upvotes · 469 comments

Doctrine vs Disclosure: Jacques Vallee's latest quote, "The universe is not a space time universe. What we perceive as space and time is a derived quantity from something else,...It's not just the physics. It's not just propulsion. It's our culture, our hopes, our visions of God, of other Powers."

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6d ago

Doctrine vs Disclosure: Jacques Vallee's latest quote, "The universe is not a space time universe. What we perceive as space and time is a derived quantity from something else,...It's not just the physics. It's not just propulsion. It's our culture, our hopes, our visions of God, of other Powers."

603 upvotes · 199 comments

Similar to the post from earlier, I saw this on a flight just before landing in Vegas this past February. Ideas on what it is?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5d ago

Similar to the post from earlier, I saw this on a flight just before landing in Vegas this past February. Ideas on what it is?

r/UFOs - Similar to the post from earlier, I saw this on a flight just before landing in Vegas this past February. Ideas on what it is?

593 upvotes · 104 comments

Vallee actually did say some fascinating things: an NHI in a govt lab. May be controller of control system. Sophisticated communication in controlled conditions. The info acquired may destroy our culture and society. Also: a witness went inside the Trinity craft: egg shaped, empty inside, no engine

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5d ago

Vallee actually did say some fascinating things: an NHI in a govt lab. May be controller of control system. Sophisticated communication in controlled conditions. The info acquired may destroy our culture and society. Also: a witness went inside the Trinity craft: egg shaped, empty inside, no engine

584 upvotes · 207 comments

In a recent Weaponized episode Jacques Vallee discussed NHI, but he wasn't talking about crashed saucers or captured beings. He's describing something far more bizarre than that. He says the phenomenon behaves like a control system, and that it can be open or closed and access is not ours to decide.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3d ago

In a recent Weaponized episode Jacques Vallee discussed NHI, but he wasn't talking about crashed saucers or captured beings. He's describing something far more bizarre than that. He says the phenomenon behaves like a control system, and that it can be open or closed and access is not ours to decide.

r/UFOs - In a recent Weaponized episode Jacques Vallee discussed NHI, but he wasn't talking about crashed saucers or captured beings. He's describing something far more bizarre than that. He says the phenomenon behaves like a control system, and that it can be open or closed and access is not ours to decide.

542 upvotes · 208 comments

Dan Farah says paid bad actors online are trying to discredit The Age of Disclosure - "The the only the only comments like that I've seen are on social media from people that I know are bad actors. There's a number of people who are just legitimate paid bad actors."

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4d ago

Dan Farah says paid bad actors online are trying to discredit The Age of Disclosure - "The the only the only comments like that I've seen are on social media from people that I know are bad actors. There's a number of people who are just legitimate paid bad actors."

r/UFOs - Dan Farah says paid bad actors online are trying to discredit The Age of Disclosure - "The the only the only comments like that I've seen are on social media from people that I know are bad actors. There's a number of people who are just legitimate paid bad actors."

520 upvotes · 338 comments

They are underwater in our Oceans. - British whistleblower reveals that UFOs attacked Navy warships in the Arctic Ocean. Tony Dodd says he was harassed for releasing info about a UFO attacking Navy warships in the Arctic Ocean. Also WikiLeaks Set To Reveal US-UFO War In Southern Ocean.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3d ago

They are underwater in our Oceans. - British whistleblower reveals that UFOs attacked Navy warships in the Arctic Ocean. Tony Dodd says he was harassed for releasing info about a UFO attacking Navy warships in the Arctic Ocean. Also WikiLeaks Set To Reveal US-UFO War In Southern Ocean.

r/UFOs - They are underwater in our Oceans. - British whistleblower reveals that UFOs attacked Navy warships in the Arctic Ocean. Tony Dodd says he was harassed for releasing info about a UFO attacking Navy warships in the Arctic Ocean. Also WikiLeaks Set To Reveal US-UFO War In Southern Ocean.

508 upvotes · 72 comments

A very high-speed object with a non-ballistic trajectory shot across the sky while filming last night, 7:02 pm PST in Veneta, OR

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

A very high-speed object with a non-ballistic trajectory shot across the sky while filming last night, 7:02 pm PST in Veneta, OR

r/UFOs - A very high-speed object with a non-ballistic trajectory shot across the sky while filming last night, 7:02 pm PST in Veneta, OR

489 upvotes · 107 comments

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of July 26, 2020

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of July 2020

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2020

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

Astronomers "always look up and would see UFOs" : r/ufo

Open menu

r/ufo

Search in r/ufo

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/ufo icon

Go to ufo

r/ufo

•

6y ago

[deleted]

Astronomers "always look up and would see UFOs"

Sorry, this post was deleted by the person who originally posted it.

17

.

11

Comments Section

Ianbillmorris

•

6y ago

As an amateur astronomer as a kid, I've got to disagree with this, my astronomy society spent more time out of doors (when the sky was clear) than in our dome. Even when it was cloudy, we spent lots of time outside complaining about the cloud rather than be inside. I saw one UFO reported in the local press in my time there (and easily identified it as ground based lights on low cloud)

1

u/MKULTRA_Escapée avatar

MKULTRA_Escapée

•

6y ago

Do you personally believe astronomers don't see UFOs? Because that is incorrect. This is one of the mountain of myths on this topic, and very few people seem to be interested in checking its accuracy. Its strength usually comes from the form the claim is in. It's a built in assumption inside of a question that goes something like this: "Why don't astronomers see UFOs?" Rather than debunking the assumption, people tend to want to actually answer that question as if it made sense. It's kind of like asking somebody "Why do you beat your wife?"

A List of UFO Sightings by Astronomers (Compiled in 2000)

<https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/a-list-of-ufo-sightings-by-astronomers/>
There are a few hundred here. Some are better than others, and I'm sure this is not the full list.

The USAF's Project Blue Book files indicate that approximately 1%[95] of all unknown reports came from amateur and professional astronomers or other users of telescopes (such as missile trackers or surveyors). In 1952, astronomer J. Allen Hynek, then a consultant to Blue Book, conducted a small survey of 45 fellow professional astronomers. Five reported UFO sightings (about 11%). In the 1970s, astrophysicist Peter A. Sturrock conducted two large surveys of the AIAA and American Astronomical Society (AAS). About 5% of the members polled indicated that they had had UFO sightings.

Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, who admitted to six UFO sightings, including three green fireballs, supported the Extraterrestrial hypothesis for UFOs and stated he thought scientists who dismissed it without study were being "unscientific." Another astronomer was Lincoln LaPaz, who had headed the Air Force's investigation into the green fireballs and other UFO phenomena in New Mexico. LaPaz reported two personal sightings, one of a green fireball, the other of an anomalous disc-like object. (Both Tombaugh and LaPaz were part of Hynek's 1952 survey.) Hynek himself took two photos through the window of a commercial airliner of a disc-like object that seemed to pace his aircraft.[96]

In 1980, a survey of 1800 members of various amateur astronomer associations by Gert Helb and Hynek for CUFOS found that 24% responded "yes" to the question "Have you ever observed an object which resisted your most exhaustive efforts at identification?"[97]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unidentified_flying_object#Astronomer_reports

There certainly could be reasons why more astronomers haven't seen UFOs, and OP addressed some of these, but the underlying question that gets asked all the

time is bullshit.

4

[deleted]

•

6y ago

That's a good point, as many do. This thread was more of an attempt at disproving the claim that 'astronomers always look up, monitor the skies and would see UFOs if ever reported'

2

u/evilbatcat avatar

evilbatcat

•

6y ago

Dunning-Kruger is relevant here for OP. It explains so much about us. It's a great read too. I think you'd enjoy it.

1

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

6y ago

Thank you for the reply. I must agree most amateur astronomy clubs are outdoor events. But from my short lived experience (4 weeks), they seem to spend more time setting up to a predetermined position (planet, star) making an observation and then talking amongst themselves. As opposed to "monitoring the sky" so to speak. Certainly not enough to be an 'authority' on the subject.

They also only tend to meet once every few weeks or so (weather permitting), not every night.

1

Ianbillmorris

•

6y ago

Our ratio of members to telescopes was quite high (ie far less telescopes than people), even the events I've attended since (eg Baker Street astronomy in London) have similar ratios, so while plenty of chatting goes on, there is generally a few eyes in the group on the skies at most times.

1

3 more replies

Bletcherstonerson

•

6y ago

Oumuamua, I believe astronomers saw that...

0

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

George Knapp the Alien Hunter

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

2d ago

George Knapp the Alien Hunter

r/ufo - George Knapp the Alien Hunter

926 upvotes · 53 comments

Steven Spielberg Facing Conspiracy Theory His Top-Secret New UFO Movie 'Features Real Aliens'

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3d ago

Steven Spielberg Facing Conspiracy Theory His Top-Secret New UFO Movie 'Features Real Aliens'

r/ufo - Steven Spielberg Facing Conspiracy Theory His Top-Secret New UFO Movie 'Features Real Aliens'

a0l

653 upvotes · 134 comments

What if UFOs aren't drawn to radiation... what if it just tears away whatever's been hiding them from us all along?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5d ago

What if UFOs aren't drawn to radiation... what if it just tears away whatever's been hiding them from us all along?

236 upvotes · 46 comments

Jorge Pabon, ret. U.S. Army paratrooper claims that there are multiple bases on the Moon, including at least one large Ancient Ark. He took dozens of photos of triangular TR3B craft (black triangle anti-gravity ships he believes are human-built but using borrowed ET technology) & cigar-shaped craft.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1d ago

Jorge Pabon, ret. U.S. Army paratrooper claims that there are multiple bases on the Moon, including at least one large Ancient Ark. He took dozens of photos of triangular TR3B craft (black triangle anti-gravity ships he believes are human-built but using borrowed ET technology) & cigar-shaped craft.

r/ufo - Jorge Pabon, ret. U.S. Army paratrooper claims that there are multiple bases on the Moon, including at least one large Ancient Ark. He took dozens of photos of triangular TR3B craft (black triangle anti-gravity ships he believes are human-built but using borrowed ET technology) & cigar-shaped craft.

howandwhys

228 upvotes · 98 comments

Ufo spotted over mumbai

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

7d ago

Ufo spotted over mumbai

r/ufo - Ufo spotted over mumbai

155 upvotes · 5 comments

Pilot reports UFO hovering beside jet, leaving air traffic control stunned: 'Good luck with the aliens'

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4d ago

Pilot reports UFO hovering beside jet, leaving air traffic control stunned: 'Good luck with the aliens'

r/ufo - Pilot reports UFO hovering beside jet, leaving air traffic control stunned: 'Good luck with the aliens'

yahoo

143 upvotes · 5 comments

New and historic images, unseen for 50 years, related to the Travis Walton case are revealed. Among them are records of the moment when the official Arizona state polygraph examiner confirmed that the six men with Travis Walton passed the lie detector tests.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6d ago

New and historic images, unseen for 50 years, related to the Travis Walton case are revealed. Among them are records of the moment when the official Arizona state polygraph examiner confirmed that the six men with Travis Walton passed the lie detector tests.

r/ufo - New and historic images, unseen for 50 years, related to the Travis Walton case are revealed. Among them are records of the moment when the official Arizona state polygraph examiner confirmed that the six men with Travis Walton passed the lie detector tests.

com

125 upvotes · 29 comments

Dont really know what to say. You probably want to read this.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4d ago

Dont really know what to say. You probably want to read this.

124 upvotes · 346 comments

Photos of Unknown Object

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5d ago

Photos of Unknown Object

81 upvotes · 13 comments

CNN is covering the 1952 DC UFO wave - Pilots were scrambled to intercept bright objects that appeared to "dip, stop, vanish and reappear on radar screens". One pilot was surrounded by 4 bright lights circling his plane until they shot away instantaneously. Others vanished as soon as approached.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

2d ago

CNN is covering the 1952 DC UFO wave - Pilots were scrambled to intercept bright objects that appeared to "dip, stop, vanish and reappear on radar screens". One pilot was surrounded by 4 bright lights circling his plane until they shot away instantaneously. Others vanished as soon as approached.

76 upvotes · 2 comments

Are Alien Movies Gradually Preparing Society for Extraterrestrial Contact?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5d ago

Are Alien Movies Gradually Preparing Society for Extraterrestrial Contact?

73 upvotes · 81 comments

Does anyone know what happened to the egg-shaped UFO that Ross Coulthart marketed as one of the greatest pieces of evidence ever?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

7d ago

Does anyone know what happened to the egg-shaped UFO that Ross Coulthart marketed as one of the greatest pieces of evidence ever?

68 upvotes · 78 comments

Six and a Half Years Later, the DoD's Reply to Harry Reid's AATIP Memo Remains Missing

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

4d ago

Six and a Half Years Later, the DoD's Reply to Harry Reid's AATIP Memo Remains Missing

r/ufo - Six and a Half Years Later, the DoD's Reply to Harry Reid's AATIP Memo Remains Missing

theblackvault

58 upvotes · 4 comments

Merry Christmas from 3I/Atlas to all of you! 🎄(Please tell me that you got the idea 😊)

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6d ago

Merry Christmas from 3I/Atlas to all of you! 🎄(Please tell me that you got the idea 😊)

56 upvotes · 29 comments

Has anyone ever seen a UFO like this?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6d ago

Has anyone ever seen a UFO like this?

r/ufo - Has anyone ever seen a UFO like this?

44 upvotes · 34 comments

Jay Stratton: Taking UAP from Rumor to a Standing National-Security Portfolio

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3d ago

Jay Stratton: Taking UAP from Rumor to a Standing National-Security Portfolio

43 upvotes · 1 comment

A research on the best TR-3B footage.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3d ago

A research on the best TR-3B footage.

r/ufo - A research on the best TR-3B footage.

com

43 upvotes · 10 comments

Extraño objeto en el cielo

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

3d ago

Extraño objeto en el cielo

36 upvotes

A must see short Documentary about the Rendlesham Forrest Incident! A lot more witnesses and corroborations from the base.

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

2d ago

A must see short Documentary about the Rendlesham Forrest Incident! A lot more witnesses and corroborations from the base.

18 upvotes · 4 comments

New Movie -- Witnesses of The Rendelsham Forest Incident

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

1d ago

New Movie -- Witnesses of The Rendelsham Forest Incident

16 upvotes

UFO tilted on its side filmed with a Motorola RAZR V3 by Marvin Badilla,
Tarbaca, Costa Rica, 2007

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5d ago

UFO tilted on its side filmed with a Motorola RAZR V3 by Marvin Badilla,
Tarbaca, Costa Rica, 2007

r/ufo - UFO tilted on its side filmed with a Motorola RAZR V3 by Marvin Badilla,
Tarbaca, Costa Rica, 2007

youtu

15 upvotes · 2 comments

The Epstein files exposed sloppy redactions. Have UAP document dumps had the
same issue?

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6d ago

The Epstein files exposed sloppy redactions. Have UAP document dumps had the
same issue?

14 upvotes · 13 comments

a new alien sub to keep bots and bad actors out is up

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

7d ago

a new alien sub to keep bots and bad actors out is up

14 upvotes · 59 comments

Ariel Phenomenon - Yale Student UFO Society

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

6d ago

Ariel Phenomenon - Yale Student UFO Society

r/ufo - Ariel Phenomenon - Yale Student UFO Society

youtu

11 upvotes

Leslie Kean - Lecture with Yale Student UFO Society - UFO Journalism in the New
York Times & Beyond

r/ufo icon

r/ufo

•

5d ago

Leslie Kean - Lecture with Yale Student UFO Society - UFO Journalism in the New
York Times & Beyond

r/ufo - Leslie Kean - Lecture with Yale Student UFO Society - UFO Journalism in
the New York Times & Beyond

youtu

10 upvotes · 1 comment

Community Info Section

r/ufo

Join

UFO

A subreddit for the serious discussion of UFOs and related phenomena, with an
emphasis on current events and breaking news. PLEASE DO NOT POST UFO
VIDEOS/PHOTOS HERE. READ THE RULES!

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of September 22, 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of September 2019

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2019

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

The 'metapod' UFO resembles a man made thing, a nature made thing, a piece of art, and a piece of science fiction. Since it couldn't possibly be all of these things at once, this demonstrates that you're mathematically guaranteed to find resemblance somewhere, even with very obscure looking UFOs. : r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UFOs icon

Go to UFOs

r/UFOs

•

4y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

The 'metapod' UFO resembles a man made thing, a nature made thing, a piece of art, and a piece of science fiction. Since it couldn't possibly be all of these things at once, this demonstrates that you're mathematically guaranteed to find resemblance somewhere, even with very obscure looking UFOs.

r/UFOs - The 'metapod' UFO resembles a man made thing, a nature made thing, a piece of art, and a piece of science fiction. Since it couldn't possibly be all of these things at once, this demonstrates that you're mathematically guaranteed to find resemblance somewhere, even with very obscure looking UFOs.

imgur.com

Open

190

•

100

Comments Section

Hirokage

•

4y ago

I couldn't believe someone put a picture of a tent up as if it or a similar tent could possibly be the culprit. We'll say the entire tent is only 30 pounds, you would need approximately 500 square feet of helium to keep it aloft. And of course there is a zipper, it's not sealed.

Even if it were 20 lbs, it would take around 330 cubic feet of helium to keep it up. Might be possible if that object is fairly large, but unlikely. Hundreds or more objects probably look similar to this one. Doesn't mean you found the answer because you found something that kind of looks like it.

It's one of my pet peeves with UFOs.. people find a thing it COULD be.. and assume that is 100% the answer. It's shoddy science, and a way debunkers explain away sightings. If you can't blame Jupiter, you can always blame black projects, since no one knows what they look like. The last bastion of debunkers. It's hard to prove a negative.

92

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Yeah one thing I've noticed with the more zealous debunker types is that they find a prosaic explanation that fits some of the facts, but noticeably doesn't fit all of the facts, but that's good enough for them, because their logic goes like this: Look, I can't explain how the tent floats, but what's more likely, that this is a tent that floats, or that it's an alien spaceship?

And a lot of the time, they end up being right with their explanations, but the problem with this reasoning is that it leaves no room for a UFO to ever be aliens. All they have to do is find something that sort of fits some of the data, and even if the rest of the data contradicts it, they create this paradigm where they don't have to explain why those facts don't fit. According to them, extraterrestrials are so outlandish and unlikely that their explanation, even though it's flawed, is more likely, and because their explanation is more likely, that makes it correct by default.

And when you only have to find a prosaic explanation that fits some of the facts, you've set the bar so low that you're never going to fail at clearing it.

9

1 more reply

jimmyjamminn

•

4y ago

R/UFOs in a nutshell.

32

[deleted]

•

4y ago

You got that right!

5

5 more replies

[deleted]

•

4y ago

I couldn't believe someone put a picture of a tent up as if it or a similar tent could possibly be the culprit.

I mentioned this in a comment on that ridiculous post and got downvoted into oblivion for it. There are so many people in this sub that are here just to be negative and constantly downvote any and all good posts and comments. It discourages many people including myself from even posting lots of times.

16

addledoctopus

•

4y ago

<https://weather.com/news/weather/video/strong-winds-send-dozens-of-tents-flying>

6

1 more reply

dzernumbrd

•

4y ago

Their goal is not to debunk with the actual answer, their goal is to sow doubt.

A believer says "metapod is ET not a balloon/CGI/fake"

A real scientist/real sceptic says "I don't know what metapod is"

An anti-believer debunker says "It's a balloon/CGI/fake not ET"

7

10 more replies

MattMattNY

•

4y ago

Finally an example to show why a resemblance to another object is not grounds for a debunking dismissal of evidence.

15

halfbakedreddit

•

4y ago

Yeah but also not to jump to insane conclusions.

2

1 more reply

u/YYC9393 avatar

YYC9393

•

4y ago

Finally an honest post about this thing. People here have tried to explain away every single video ever posted since this subs inception as a balloon / hoax / cgi. Very few here are honest about not actually knowing shit.

21

Dsstar666

•

4y ago

100%

But it's a symptom of humanity as a species. We don't know what we don't know. So technically speaking, you can debunk literally anything, even with evidence to the contrary. Especially if we are not physically in possession of it.

It's why I admittedly do find it funny when many people said that if it were treated seriously by scientist, we'd know the truth. But IMO that wouldn't make anything any clearer because scientist are working with the same lexicon as we are. Which means they don't even know what questions to ask. They think they do, but we're lookinh beyind the veil with UAPs which means Occams Razor is meaningless. We don't know what's possible, so how could we scale simplicity?

The closest we can do is use the science we have and the tech we've created off of its principles to help us as a frame if reference. Yet, many of these objects strain credulity because our understanding of science is incomplete. It would be equivalent to trying to compared a bumble bee to an F-22. Yet it'll be the best we can do until we stumble upon new theories within physics (idk, you know what I'm trying to say) that starts like a Renaissance of new ideas.

So unless scientists start thinking outside the box, we're going to be talking in circles with people in lab coats going "We don't know what it is. But aliens are the last thing we'd suspect" despite growing evidence to the contrary.

It's why this topic will forever be an enigma. We've probably already seen "true" UFOs of beings not of this earth already (probably many times) but we are incapable of actually "seeing" UFOs because we don't know what we're looking at. So naturally, everything will be referenced to our own lexicon. "I'm sorry, but that's a balloon" "Dude, those are flares" "Dude that's Jupiter" "I hate this sub. Everyone thinks aliens first, when this is most likely via occams Razor that this is swamp gas"

We have literal Navy Pilots saying (paraphrasing) "We chased a silent object that reacted to us, accelerated faster than anything possible, jammed our signals, and then reappeared at a location I was originally supposed to be at as if it knew all of this. It was clearly intelligently controlled." The fact that so many intellectuals still doubt it, isn't skepticism or scientific. It's just the denial of a species that thought it knew everything there was to know and made it feel safe.

11

Guapodiego

•

4y ago

I'm still not sure why it can't be all of those things. Science fiction, and art are man made.

5

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

The theory was that it was CGI because of the coincidence that it resembles a past piece of science fiction, meaning that the apparent VFX artist drew the idea from that science fiction. The object can't be a chrysalis, CGI, and a tent that somebody somehow got aloft at the same time.

5

Guapodiego

•

4y ago

I gotcha. I just am often mystified as to why our approach to this subject is so classically scientific when the phenomena continues to undermine classical science.

These objects have been reported to change shapes. Quantum physics implies that there is an interactive quality to reality. Why could there not be an interactive quality to this phenomena?

I see your point, however. I am not being intentionally obtuse. Just wondering if there is some middle ground between approaching this subject like one is Mick West Jr. and approaching this subject like one is He Hath Risen Dr. Greer.

3

1 more reply

dosangst

•

4y ago

Thank you.

11

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

UFOs of a much simpler shape stand no chance at all. The Rex Heflin photos were "debunked" as a model train wheel because of the uncanny resemblance to the UFO, but you can find all kinds of objects that resemble it, from an uncanny resemblance to somewhat close. You can find a certain kind of hat, a metal bowl/plate, a car rotor, and other objects that resemble it. This happens to UFOs all of the time.

This is not the only way that probability is exploited by people debunking UFOs.

There are other options besides finding a lookalike. You could also find other coincidences in the case, such as the hobby or occupation of the witness. See Why legitimate UFO footage is guaranteed to be "debunked": probability is not common sense:

https://np.reddit.com/r/aliens/comments/t1xuq4/why_legitimate_ufo_footage_is_guaranteed_to_be/

Here is a post I did recently on the likelihood that some past science fiction will have at least a small number of resemblances to future UFO encounters:

https://np.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/tzk64m/debunking_predictive_programming_and_the_myth/

23

[deleted]

•

4y ago

To me the whole UFO scene stands on the amount of evidence rather than the strength of each individual piece of evidence. To me, it's like having a 20,000 piece jigsaw puzzle but not knowing what the image is. If you start with 0 pieces of the puzzle and start slowly adding random pieces, you'll start to recognize patterns as the pieces come together. So.. say we believe that puzzle is a coke can, and your friend believes it's a firetruck. Well.. if in the end, we only have 500 pieces of the puzzle, dispersed randomly, our friend might point to a patch of red and say "see, clearly a firetruck" and be done with it. That's all fine and good... but what happens if we keep adding red pieces in different parts of the puzzle.. what happens when there is a white piece? That person will ALWAYS be able to say it was a firetruck, until the image is UNDENIABLY not.

IRL, we don't have the completed image to ever say "this is definitely it", but as we continue to collect pieces of the image it becomes more and more apparent to us that the simplest explanation for each individual piece doesn't account for explanation of the whole. IE, this image might look like a balloon to some people, but we know for a fact that there have been things in the sky described similarly that absolutely aren't.

TLDR; saying that an individual sighting is a balloon might make sense, saying that thousands of sightings over the last dozen years are ALL balloons doesn't make sense. Therefore, we should actually investigate and MAKE SURE IT'S A BALLOON before insisting that it is one. Same as we shouldn't be insisting that it is definitely aliens.

10

5 more replies

jimmyjamminn

•

4y ago

Thank you OP. Good post. Would be great to see us actually figure out what something is, instead of just dismissing because it's easier.

13

PluvioShaman

•

4y ago

That's a pretty dream you have there.

3

2 more replies

WeAreNotAlone1947

•

4y ago

There is a ballon in every shape possible so its super lazy to use that as an explanation.

7

Site-Staff

•

4y ago

Does the metapod come in a bronze color?

4

PluvioShaman

•

4y ago

Why do we call it metapod and when did that start

2

MarceloBlack

•

4y ago

Many of you forget the shape shift of some footages and abduction cases, we cant limit this phenomenas capacities

2

Pacifix18

•

4y ago

Do 'metapod' UFOs exist? Or is this the "if you can conceive of it, it must exist somewhere" philosophy?

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

This post is only to demonstrate the point that I want to make, which is that coincidences are exploited often in some debunks. I'm making no claim about the credibility of the video itself, only the credibility of the coincidence-exploiting debunk attempts. I'm not even aware of the original upload or who filmed it.

14

18 more replies

9 more replies

u/JusticeofMaat avatar

JusticeofMaat

•
4y ago
Wow, everything looks like something else. Reality is debunked.

1

1 more reply
ThePopeofHell

•
4y ago
You forgot the mr peanut balloon.

1
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•
4y ago
Where was that left off? From what I recall, there was one user who got a hold of the PR department and they claimed they didn't fly a balloon during that period, but that's just a claim I guess. The one user who provided the "other view" of the balloon actually photographed it years beforehand and was just sharing it as an example of what a mr peanut balloon would look like, not actually claiming that it was another view of the same object in question.

I forget the rest of the details.

1

1 more reply

1 more reply
[deleted]

•
4y ago
It is not up to debunkers to disprove the claims made by people.

It is up to people making claims to prove them.

1
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•
4y ago
If a debunking attempt is illogical, it should be called out as such. I made no claims about this being an alien craft. My only point is that it remains a ufo, or at worst some decent cgi that also has not been identified as such, at least at this moment. It sucks, but sometimes certain attempted explanations simply don't work.

1

7 more replies
u/BtchsLoveDub avatar
BtchsLoveDub

•
4y ago
If you don't think it looks like countless other examples of a Mylar balloon then that's on you.

-1

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Why the motion? Why does it rotate as it goes through the air? Is it to get a good view? Is it the propulsion system?

1

u/Gzngahr avatar

Gzngahr

•

4y ago

That's what bothers me most about this one, it just looks familiar, like when you see a random person and wonder why they look familiar, then a week later you are like oh he looked like Ray Romano!

1

Sea_Breakfast_7024

•

4y ago

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most convincing UFO sighting ever recorded

Unexplained phenomena linked to UFOs

How to investigate a UFO sighting effectively

Best documentaries about UFO encounters

Recent government disclosures on UFOs

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

r/UFOs - Found this random UFO picture, does it depict a real UFO model?

549 upvotes · 172 comments

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2d ago

My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

r/UFOs - My ufo experience uploaded again due to be taken down

2.8K upvotes · 263 comments

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

14d ago

I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

r/UFOs - I analyzed 80,000 UFO sightings. Here are some insights.

9

865 upvotes · 127 comments

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

Alright, let's cut the crap. Who here has actually seen an undeniable UFO?

664 upvotes · 709 comments

Which type of UFO have you seen?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

Which type of UFO have you seen?

r/UFOs - Which type of UFO have you seen?

2.3K upvotes · 1.2K comments

This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

r/UFOs - This is, in my opinion, the most solid evidence for the existence of UFOs since the 50's

youtu

929 upvotes · 291 comments

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

26d ago

That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

r/UFOs - That's what I call a beautiful UFO sighting.

2.2K upvotes · 199 comments

The UFO Phenomenon Is Weirder Than You Think

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1y ago

The UFO Phenomenon Is Weirder Than You Think

912 upvotes · 362 comments

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

7d ago

For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

r/UFOs - For Skeptics: You Don't Have to Believe in UFOs to Prepare for Ontological Disruption

substack

173 upvotes · 87 comments

My first UFO sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

8mo ago

My first UFO sighting

r/UFOs - My first UFO sighting

718 upvotes · 56 comments

I don't want to be the UFO weirdo, but sometimes I just can't hold back.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

4mo ago

I don't want to be the UFO weirdo, but sometimes I just can't hold back.

112 upvotes · 290 comments

Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

r/UFOs - Why the 2008 Flyby UFO Video Could Actually Be Real

reveil

164 upvotes · 95 comments

Summoning UFO with meditation

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9d ago

Summoning UFO with meditation

8 upvotes · 102 comments

I'd like to tell the story of the UFO my Dad saw in the 90s.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

I'd like to tell the story of the UFO my Dad saw in the 90s.

104 upvotes · 11 comments

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

6mo ago

One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

r/UFOs - One way how the UFO secret keeps itself

652 upvotes · 211 comments

Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9mo ago

Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

r/UFOs - Is this a UFO or am I crazy?

888 upvotes · 61 comments

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

UFO Sighting

r/UFOs - UFO Sighting

5

206 upvotes · 49 comments

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

9d ago

Looking for a good Podcast/videos/channel to get more information about UFOs.

14 upvotes · 47 comments

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

1mo ago

This whole UFO disclosure is one giant psyop and everyone is falling for it.

51 comments

What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?

r/UFOs icon
r/UFOs

•

4d ago

What are your favorite UFO / UAP podcasts from 2025?

41 upvotes · 75 comments

Weird UFO shape sighting

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

3mo ago

Weird UFO shape sighting

r/UFOs - Weird UFO shape sighting

300 upvotes · 32 comments

Any UFO podcasts recommendations?

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

Any UFO podcasts recommendations?

28 upvotes · 50 comments

1950's UFO

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

1950's UFO

r/UFOs - 1950's UFO

114 upvotes · 27 comments

R/ufo

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

2mo ago

R/ufo

r/UFOs - R/ufo

20 comments

An update to my UFO map

r/UFOs icon

r/UFOs

•

5mo ago

An update to my UFO map

r/UFOs - An update to my UFO map

143 upvotes · 35 comments

Community Info Section

r/UFOs

Join

The UFO reddit

A community for discussion related to Unidentified Flying Objects. Share your sightings, experiences, news, and investigations. We aim to elevate good research while maintaining healthy skepticism.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 12, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

Why legitimate UFO footage is guaranteed to be "debunked": probability is not common sense. : r/aliens

Open menu

r/aliens

Search in r/aliens

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/aliens icon

Go to aliens

r/aliens

•

4y ago

MKULTRA_Escap

Why legitimate UFO footage is guaranteed to be "debunked": probability is not common sense.

To demonstrate how easily probability can be misused, see the prosecutor's fallacy.

The prosecutor's fallacy is a fallacy of statistical reasoning involving a test for an occurrence, such as a DNA match. A positive result in the test may paradoxically be more likely to be an erroneous result than an actual occurrence, even if the test is very accurate. The fallacy is named because it is typically used by a prosecutor to exaggerate the probability of a criminal defendant's guilt. The fallacy can be used to support other claims as well - including the innocence of a defendant.

For instance, if a perpetrator were known to have the same blood type as a given defendant and 10% of the population to share that blood type, then one version of the prosecutor's fallacy would be to claim that, on that basis alone, the probability that the defendant is guilty is 90%. However, this conclusion is only close to correct if the defendant was selected as the main suspect based on robust evidence discovered prior to the blood test and unrelated to it (the blood match may then be an "unexpected coincidence"). Otherwise, the reasoning presented is flawed, as it overlooks the high prior probability (that is, prior to the blood test) that he is a random innocent person. Assume, for instance, that 1000 people live in the town where the murder occurred. This means that 100 people live there who have the perpetrator's blood type; therefore, the true probability that the defendant is guilty - based on the fact that his blood type matches that of the killer - is only 1%, far less than the 90% argued by the prosecutor.

A UFO photograph or video is often considered to be debunked if at least one unlikely coincidence is found in the case. You only need one. We now know that the Flir1 Nimitz UFO footage is authentic because the government admitted it was, but this footage was leaked in 2007 with skeptics concluding that it was a CGI hoax because it was originally uploaded to a CGI website. What are the odds of legitimate Navy footage being first uploaded to a CGI website? This demonstrates that even if you have a very strong coincidence argument against UFO footage, it could still be perfectly legitimate.

There are other kinds of coincidences that are used in the same way. What if the UFO resembles a man made object? Does that mean that it's probably a hoax? Actually, no. I'll explain this critical error using the McMinnville UFO

photographs. They are often considered to be a hoax because the UFO resembles a vehicle side view mirror from that era. What are the odds that a UFO would closely resemble a side view mirror? That's not actually what the argument is, however. It's actually "what are the odds that any of a number of unlikely coincidences in the case would be found?" This is because if an unlikely coincidence was found, it would be considered to be debunked. It just happens to be in this case that skeptics discovered the resemblance to a man made object, but many other kinds of coincidences could have taken its place.

In this debunking of the MnMinnville UFO, they didn't use the highest quality version of the photograph, so it only appears to be a very close match. However, we should expect to find at least one man made object that resembles the ufo, but that doesn't actually mean anything for guilt or innocence.

What is the total number of things humans have created? Billions? Trillions? We have created an uncountable number of things of all shapes, colors, and sizes, and each of them can be photographed from a wide variety of angles, including various kinds of toys, kites, balloons, vehicle parts, trinkets, cookware, utensils, tools, hats, etc, etc. Unless the UFO is of a very unusual shape, it's nearly guaranteed that you'll eventually discover a man made object that resembles a UFO.

What about hobbies and occupations? Even though many people out there work in special effects and are equally likely to see a UFO as anyone else, if a UFO photograph happened to be taken by such a person, it will be automatically discredited. What are the odds that a UFO witness will happen to work in special effects? Like earlier, this is not what the argument actually is because other occupations and hobbies have been used to discredit a UFO photograph or video. Any other kind of unlikely coincidence could be used here.

People who are automatically suspicious of perpetrating a UFO hoax: 1) anyone who has a drone, 2) anyone who builds scale models, 3) anyone who has a hobby or occupation involving VFX, 4) anyone who has a hobby or occupation involving special effects, 5) anyone with a youtube account or something else that may theoretically draw subscribers or money from the sighting, 6) anyone who has seen a UFO more than once, and 7) anyone with a conviction on their record. I know I'm missing a lot here, but you get the point. Additionally, even if the witness had no occupations or hobbies having anything to do with these things, and even if this is the first UFO this person has witnessed, it can still be "debunked" if a skeptic finds a man made object that closely resembles the UFO. At the end of the day, the likelihood of a legitimate UFO witness passing the "no coincidence test" is low because there are so many available options to choose from. You should expect to find at least one unlikely coincidence in the case, sometimes more.

The 2007 Costa Rica video has been "debunked" because it was found that the primary witness builds scale models of horse drawn carriages and stuff as a hobby, alleging that he could have also built a UFO model based on this coincidence. Here is the Costa Rica 2007 UFO video. Here are screenshots of the video, and here's a gif of the movement. Here is a video on his scale models, and here is a photo he took of one of his scale models What are the odds?

This video of a flying saucer zipping around outside of an airplane window was debunked because the witness who posted the video was accused of being a hoaxer. She works in special effects (not VFX) and worked on a couple of alien themed movies. She was widely accused of being a hoaxer and eventually deleted her original tweet. What are the odds that a UFO witness would work in special effects on a few alien movies? I would change this to "what are the odds that you'd find at least one unlikely coincidence in a UFO case?" It could very well be CGI, but the fact that you found an unlikely coincidence doesn't support that allegation.

The bottom line is that you are not asking how unlikely it is that a person who films a UFO would work in special effects or that the UFO resembles a specific

man made object. Your actual argument is "what are the odds that I would be able to find at least one unlikely coincidence in a legitimate UFO case?" The answer is that it's practically guaranteed because coincidences happen all the time, so when you do finally stumble upon that coincidence, that by itself is not evidence of anything whatsoever. If enough details are made public, someone will eventually discover that coincidence.

Here are two more critical errors I've seen made many times on the subject of UFOs:

1) Just because something is possibly true does not mean it is actually true. Just because it is possible to recreate a UFO photograph using camera trickery does not mean that the photo is a fake. Possibility here does not imply likelihood because many real things can be recreated using camera trickery. Think about real things being depicted on a Hollywood set, such as gun fights, car crashes, etc.

This argument is also often based on the idea that extraterrestrial visitation is unlikely, meaning that if it is theoretically possible to recreate a UFO photograph, then it must have been fake, but we don't actually know how likely or unlikely alien visitation is.

2) Just because there are many cases of conventional objects being misinterpreted as UFOs does not imply that all UFOs are conventional. If alien spaceships really were visiting Earth and the public was aware of this, the majority of sightings would still be conventional phenomena because most people are not expertly familiar with aircraft, atmospheric physics, astronomy, etc. A sampling of reports from the general public would still be mostly conventional, not actual UFOs, whether UFOs were real or not.

173

.

38

Comments Section

u/pitbull17 avatar

pitbull17

•

4y ago

Good write up, we've all seen the guys out there that no matter what, are going to do everything they can to discredit every piece of evidence there is, simply because they do not want the phenomenon to be real. With a little bit of intelligence someone can poke holes in even the most truthful stories. Wrongful convictions of innocent men happen, and it doesn't happen without an intelligent, ruthless prosecutor doing his best to blur the lines of truth. Not all the stories on the phenomenon are true. The small amount that are true are going to be picked at far beyond due diligence simply because there are those, i.e. Mick Eest, who desperately don't want it to be real.

32

OregonBlues

•

4y ago

u/itsthebs

10

u/ItsTheBS avatar

ItsTheBS

•

4y ago

u/itsthebs

Are you saying that I do everything to discredit every piece of evidence?

1

7 more replies
u/fulminic avatar
fulminic

•

4y ago

Thanks for providing the link to the ATS thread where the flir video was posted. I spent a LOT of my time on ATS back then and god, I do not miss it. Reading through the comments.. I even remember these users like isaac koi and ignorant ape, guys considering themselves elite because of their worthless ats star rank. Especially the latter is in this thread a total arrogant prick, bashing the OP accusing him of being a fraud. Hope he bowed his head in shame when the truth came out, but I doubt he's a person capable to mae culpa.

3

mudskipper4

•

3y ago

I would say that you are correct that the nimitz video is "authentic" in terms of it not being created using cgi or any other kind of hoax/digital manipulation. However, I would disagree with you that it shows anything of any significance.

1

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•

3y ago

I never said it did show anything of significance. I know I don't know that. The point of my citing it was to demonstrate a concept. A very convincing debunking based on a coincidence is not necessarily guaranteed to be correct.

1

1 more reply
berkenobi

•

4y ago

The Costa Rica one is one of my favorite sightings

6

SAMAKAGATBY

•

4y ago

Mine too, the guy speaking in the background sounds so genuine!

2

u/Racecarlock avatar
Racecarlock

•

4y ago

The problem is that a lot of people here believe they're doing the whole "Test every possible rational explanation before arriving at supernatural anomaly" thing, but they aren't. In fact, they're doing the opposite. Start with the assumption that it's a supernatural anomaly (such as an alien spaceship or experimental government aircraft using new tech that breaks the laws of physics) and then if someone even suggests a more conventional explanation, downvote them and call them a debunker and then dunning kruger the shit out of altitude,

distance, and speed measurements made by eye on an extremely grainy video shot from a mile away, and boom, you have "proven" a supernatural anomaly was there and shown those darn skeptics what for!

The thing is, I don't know how that actually helps. Like, if someone does genuinely mistake a balloon for a supernatural anomaly and then films it, and then people assert that it's an anomaly, and then later it does actually turn out to be a balloon, how does that make the community look? What does it do for credibility?

Like, I'm not here to prove aliens aren't real, I'm here because I love science and the prospect of having technology that breaks the laws of physics excites me and I would like to prove aliens are real. But that doesn't mean I'm willing to throw critical thinking out the window and assume something is a spaceship before ruling out balloons and chinese lanterns and unusual weather and window reflections and all that other stuff. Because it only makes the videos more credible if you CAN genuinely rule that stuff out, but I don't feel like a lot of people on here are genuinely trying that, they're rushing right past all conventional or prosaic explanations because they WANT the thing in the video to be a morphing spaceship or plasmoid being, and I don't see how that actually does anything to prove anything.

3
[deleted]

•

4y ago

At this point you can't rule out being new tech (regardless who intelligently controls the tic tacs for example). The Nimitz Tic Tacs and other US Navy videos cleared by the Pentagon as unidentified show that this phenomena is real and being observed by our best equipment. The NAVY must know these are not supernatural because radars only detect natural phenomena. Plus after chasing UFOs and sighting them by groups of piloted fighter jets and radar all the time.

So, it should be given a little less scrutiny these days if someone says they saw a UFO.

1

1 more reply
wiserone29

•

4y ago

I think you are ignoring that healthy skepticism is important. I'm not only saying extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.

The situation right now is one that requires careful examination and one should seek to debunk every video. The videos that remain after that process become increasingly compelling such that now we have us senators demanding answers. If there was a glut of videos that had easy explanations or not observed on multiple sensor systems then all of the videos lose some credibility.

People need to be more skeptical, not less. That's why we have pictures of birds and videos of balloons posted here everyday.

2
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•

4y ago

I assure you that I'm not ignoring the importance of healthy skepticism. I debunk UFO cases all the time. My point is that the particular type of

skepticism described in my post is not at all "healthy." It's just significantly exaggerated claims of probability.

3

u/five-note_sequence avatar
five-note_sequence

•

4y ago

Great post. Also reminds me of Turkish UFO video series, which was "debunked" as "part of the bridge of a cruise ship in the ocean". Even though it isn't in the ocean (position of the Moon in video resulted in calculation of object position in the sky, not in the sea), cruise ship captain mentioning that lights configuration doesn't match, and ultimately, there were no cruise ships in the area according to supposed logs.

15

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Not exactly true. UAPx has gathered footage of ufo from multiple and different devices that prove the footage they captured on camera is real.

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

I would agree. It is sometimes possible to prove, or at least show to a reasonable degree of certainty, that a particular video has not been tampered with, such as the 2016 Beaver, Utah video. Discovery Channel's Forensic Experts Scientifically Prove Utah UFO Is Genuine.

Not that I believe this is the best UFO video. It could be a small object close to the camera, but the footage itself is real.

Then of course there are the rare instances of a government admitting to the authenticity of a video or photo.

However, at least in the cases where a video garnered enough attention, there is always some kind of attempt at theoretically interpreting the real footage as that of a mundane object.

3

0minojacu1

•

4y ago

I see a lot of "genuine" footage which is obviously a bug close to the camera or a reflection of a lamp in a glass window, or a balloon being made to look like it has motion by the movement of the camera, all of these hoaxes are genuine untouched films.

2

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Your links doesn't work

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

Thank you. I found the one that doesn't work. It's the video news segment covering the Costa Rica UFO witness and his scale model building. The photograph of one of his models is also broken, but I found it on an archive and provided an imgur post of it. As far as the video is concerned, you could trust me that it was a news segment showcasing his hobby. It might still be out there somewhere. The guy just makes horse drawn carriages and stuff like that. It's a pretty normal hobby.

4

[deleted]

•

4y ago



1

1 more reply

cyberpunk_monkcm

•

4y ago

Great post. Debunking now means discounting for any possible reason, no matter how ludicrous. That a wooden train maker with a cheap cell phone is discounted shows that like only 5% of the population can be trusted with reporting a UFO according to debunkers, which is I'm sure reduces overall numbers. These debunks should be ignored and the debunked making those claims should be discounted as making poor faith claims.

2

Ominojacu1

•

4y ago

It's like saying black men are shot more by police because they represent less than 10% of the population but 36% of the people killed by police. instead of comparing the percentage of violent crime addressed by police committed by black men.

-1

[deleted]

•

4y ago

I don't recognize that statement that; 'is considered debunked if one improbability appears'. I think that's a straw man. - I don't see that in science much.

But yes!

It's a common fallacy particularly in soft sciences and even medicine. The lack of mathematical insight often blamed for it.

It's not a fallacy of probability but a fallacy of misunderstanding how and what a probability means.

Your example of a criminal court is interesting.

For one reason particularly: It's often used the other way as well.

It's often used to suggest 'evidence' are plenty. (regarding aliens and witnesses) "They would convict you in a court of law"

The problem here is that what a court does, and where it fails scientific

standards, tells you something about the justice system. Not the other way around.

"innocent until proven guilty" and "beyond reasonable doubt" mean simply; 'to a degree where we can convict enough people to satisfy an image of competence and justice'. No state would accept such a low rate of prosecuting criminals as a true scientific scrutiny would demand to satisfy those statements.

Its a lie to satisfy our need to believe bad guys get punished

5

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

This post only applies to UFOs. Sorry I didn't specify that. Trust me. This is not a strawman. That is actually how some UFO videos and photos are "debunked."

The 2007 Costa Rica video was debunked this way here:

<https://www.metabunk.org/threads/2007-costa-rica-ufo.11775/> All they did was provide a theoretical way of duplicating the footage, not actually duplicating it of course, and then arguing that his credibility is shot because he's a "model maker." When you can't find a man made object that resembles the UFO, all you have to do is allege that it was a custom model.

The same with the UFO outside of the airplane I cited in the post, and many other examples.

16

[deleted]

•

4y ago

The main argument isn't him being a model maker. The main argument is that it literally looks and behaves exactly like an object on a string. If we do proper Bayesian reasoning, the UFO explanation will have a very small prior probability. The object on a string will have a relatively extremely high probability. The evidence fits with either explanation, so the posterior probability will be much higher for object on strings.

It's an inherently difficult problem to prove a UFO due to the low prior.

6

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Aha okay. You're talking about like ... 'internet profiles/celebrities' debunking stuff. Casual opinionators if you will

3

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

4y ago

Sure, I'll just agree there because I don't feel like trying to dig up examples and it's really the argument that counts. If you google something and check the metabunk thread on the case and it appears to be debunked, most people are not going to realize how illogical the argument is. Highly intelligent people can

fall for this as much as anyone else.

Although I will say that I have never once witnessed any popular debunker celebrity correcting this error. They most likely don't realize it because if a person is discredited as a VFX hobbyist or any number of other things, or a similar man made object is cited, the case is more or less considered "solved" and most people would just move onto the next one.

7

[deleted]

•

4y ago

Interesting!

There is another aspect one can find in these contexts too.

A sloppy confusion between Debunked (Shown false or fraudulent) and Dismissed (Deemed insufficient, inconclusive or improbable).

It's not precisely what you are talking about but seem relevant and related.

a shift in burden of proof

In order to state that something has been debunked it demands that it can be shown to be false. Unlike just dismissing a claim for lack of credibility.

A simple and somewhat dumb example would be; if something could 'just as well' be a weather-balloon it's not unreasonable to dismiss a claim that it is a space-craft. That doesn't mean you have shown that it isn't.

4

Continue this thread

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Most compelling evidence of alien life

Fascinating theories about ancient aliens

Impact of UFO sightings on society

Documentaries on extraterrestrial encounters

Unexplained phenomena linked to aliens

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

"Serious" Former Senior CIA Insider: "The UFO truth is INDIGESTIBLE... too TERRIBLE to tell humanity."

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

23d ago

"Serious" Former Senior CIA Insider: "The UFO truth is INDIGESTIBLE... too TERRIBLE to tell humanity."

r.aliens - "Serious" Former Senior CIA Insider: "The UFO truth is INDIGESTIBLE... too TERRIBLE to tell humanity."

1.3K upvotes · 1.4K comments

Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!

r.aliens icon

r.aliens

•

5mo ago

Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!

r/alien - Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!

youtube

273 upvotes · 136 comments

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/alien - The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

1.8K upvotes · 140 comments

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

100 upvotes · 148 comments

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien - A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

thehiddenarchive

354 upvotes · 149 comments

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

13 upvotes · 41 comments

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

10mo ago

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

43 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

125 upvotes · 124 comments

Do you truly believe "the truth" of aliens and UFOs will be revealed in your lifetime?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

6mo ago

Do you truly believe "the truth" of aliens and UFOs will be revealed in your lifetime?

148 upvotes · 177 comments

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

20d ago

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

[r/alien](#) - In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

80 upvotes · 12 comments

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

4mo ago

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

259 upvotes · 105 comments

I don't think aliens are what we think... and why the government can't disclose

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

2mo ago

I don't think aliens are what we think... and why the government can't disclose

934 upvotes · 426 comments

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

4mo ago

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

[r/alien](#) - It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

338 upvotes · 63 comments

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

20d ago

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

[r/alien](#) - UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

co

517 upvotes · 168 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

196 upvotes · 16 comments

On The Origin of UFOs.

[r/alien icon](#)

[r/alien](#)

•

8mo ago

On The Origin of UFOs.

[r/alien](#) - On The Origin of UFOs.

1K upvotes · 29 comments

If we assume that consciousness plays a huge role in the UFO and ET phenomenon

than the next question is what are people doing to increase their consciousness?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

9d ago

If we assume that consciousness plays a huge role in the UFO and ET phenomenon than the next question is what are people doing to increase their consciousness?

92 upvotes · 76 comments

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

5mo ago

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/alien - Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

47 upvotes · 22 comments

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/alien - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

214 upvotes · 29 comments

What's the best UFO/alien documentary that actually made you feel something?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

2mo ago

What's the best UFO/alien documentary that actually made you feel something?

17 upvotes · 20 comments

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

45 upvotes · 34 comments

'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

1mo ago

'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

r/alien - 'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

livescience

151 upvotes · 12 comments

Are there any good UFO and Alien documentaries out there?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

2mo ago

Are there any good UFO and Alien documentaries out there?

27 upvotes · 38 comments

Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

 r/alien

r/alien

•

26d ago

Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

r/alien - Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

55 upvotes · 15 comments

Community Info Section

r/alien

Join

Alien

A community dedicated to discussing alien life through news, experiences, speculation and investigation. Please keep content related to extra-terrestrials or non-human intelligence behind the UAP phenomenon.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of February 26, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of February 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

Why legitimate UFO footage is guaranteed to be "debunked": probability is not common sense. : r/alien

Open menu

r/alien

Search in r/alien

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

 r/alien

Go to alien

r/alien

•

4y ago

MKULTRA_Escapee

Why legitimate UFO footage is guaranteed to be "debunked": probability is not common sense.

To demonstrate how easily probability can be misused, see the prosecutor's fallacy.

The prosecutor's fallacy is a fallacy of statistical reasoning involving a test for an occurrence, such as a DNA match. A positive result in the test may paradoxically be more likely to be an erroneous result than an actual occurrence, even if the test is very accurate. The fallacy is named because it is typically used by a prosecutor to exaggerate the probability of a criminal defendant's guilt. The fallacy can be used to support other claims as well - including the innocence of a defendant.

For instance, if a perpetrator were known to have the same blood type as a given defendant and 10% of the population to share that blood type, then one version of the prosecutor's fallacy would be to claim that, on that basis alone, the probability that the defendant is guilty is 90%. However, this conclusion is only close to correct if the defendant was selected as the main suspect based on robust evidence discovered prior to the blood test and unrelated to it (the blood match may then be an "unexpected coincidence"). Otherwise, the reasoning presented is flawed, as it overlooks the high prior probability (that is, prior to the blood test) that he is a random innocent person. Assume, for instance, that 1000 people live in the town where the murder occurred. This means that 100 people live there who have the perpetrator's blood type; therefore, the true probability that the defendant is guilty – based on the fact that his blood type matches that of the killer – is only 1%, far less than the 90% argued by the prosecutor.

A UFO photograph or video is often considered to be debunked if at least one unlikely coincidence is found in the case. You only need one. We now know that the Flir1 Nimitz UFO footage is authentic because the government admitted it was, but this footage was leaked in 2007 with skeptics concluding that it was a CGI hoax because it was originally uploaded to a CGI website. What are the odds of legitimate Navy footage being first uploaded to a CGI website? This demonstrates that even if you have a very strong coincidence argument against UFO footage, it could still be perfectly legitimate.

There are other kinds of coincidences that are used in the same way. What if the UFO resembles a man made object? Does that mean that it's probably a hoax? Actually, no. I'll explain this critical error using the McMinnville UFO photographs. They are often considered to be a hoax because the UFO resembles a vehicle side view mirror from that era. What are the odds that a UFO would closely resemble a side view mirror? That's not actually what the argument is, however. It's actually "what are the odds that any of a number of unlikely coincidences in the case would be found?" This is because if an unlikely coincidence was found, it would be considered to be debunked. It just happens to be in this case that skeptics discovered the resemblance to a man made object, but many other kinds of coincidences could have taken its place.

In this debunking of the McMinnville UFO, they didn't use the highest quality version of the photograph, so it only appears to be a very close match. However, we should expect to find at least one man made object that resembles the ufo, but that doesn't actually mean anything for guilt or innocence.

What is the total number of things humans have created? Billions? Trillions? We have created an uncountable number of things of all shapes, colors, and sizes, and each of them can be photographed from a wide variety of angles, including various kinds of toys, kites, balloons, vehicle parts, trinkets, cookware, utensils, tools, hats, etc, etc. Unless the UFO is of a very unusual shape, it's nearly guaranteed that you'll eventually discover a man made object that resembles a UFO.

What about hobbies and occupations? Even though many people out there work in special effects and are equally likely to see a UFO as anyone else, if a UFO photograph happened to be taken by such a person, it will be automatically discredited. What are the odds that a UFO witness will happen to work in special effects? Like earlier, this is not what the argument actually is because other occupations and hobbies have been used to discredit a UFO photograph or video. Any other kind of unlikely coincidence could be used here.

People who are automatically suspicious of perpetrating a UFO hoax: 1) anyone who has a drone, 2) anyone who builds scale models, 3) anyone who has a hobby or occupation involving VFX, 4) anyone who has a hobby or occupation involving special effects, 5) anyone with a youtube account or something else that may theoretically draw subscribers or money from the sighting, 6) anyone who has seen a UFO more than once, and 7) anyone with a conviction on their record. I know I'm missing a lot here, but you get the point. Additionally, even if the

witness had no occupations or hobbies having anything to do with these things, and even if this is the first UFO this person has witnessed, it can still be "debunked" if a skeptic finds a man made object that closely resembles the UFO. At the end of the day, the likelihood of a legitimate UFO witness passing the "no coincidence test" is low because there are so many available options to choose from. You should expect to find at least one unlikely coincidence in the case, sometimes more.

The 2007 Costa Rica video has been "debunked" because it was found that the primary witness builds scale models of horse drawn carriages and stuff as a hobby, alleging that he could have also built a UFO model based on this coincidence. Here is the Costa Rica 2007 UFO video. Here are screenshots of the video, and here's a gif of the movement. Here is a video on his scale models, and here is a photo he took of one of his scale models What are the odds?

This video of a flying saucer zipping around outside of an airplane window was debunked because the witness who posted the video was accused of being a hoaxer. She works in special effects (not VFX) and worked on a couple of alien themed movies. She was widely accused of being a hoaxer and eventually deleted her original tweet. What are the odds that a UFO witness would work in special effects on a few alien movies? I would change this to "what are the odds that you'd find at least one unlikely coincidence in a UFO case?" It could very well be CGI, but the fact that you found an unlikely coincidence doesn't support that allegation.

The bottom line is that you are not asking how unlikely it is that a person who films a UFO would work in special effects or that the UFO resembles a specific man made object. Your actual argument is "what are the odds that I would be able to find at least one unlikely coincidence in a legitimate UFO case?" The answer is that it's practically guaranteed because coincidences happen all the time, so when you do finally stumble upon that coincidence, that by itself is not evidence of anything whatsoever. If enough details are made public, someone will eventually discover that coincidence.

Here are two more critical errors I've seen made many times on the subject of UFOs:

1) Just because something is possibly true does not mean it is actually true. Just because it is possible to recreate a UFO photograph using camera trickery does not mean that the photo is a fake. Possibility here does not imply likelihood because many real things can be recreated using camera trickery. Think about real things being depicted on a Hollywood set, such as gun fights, car crashes, etc.

This argument is also often based on the idea that extraterrestrial visitation is unlikely, meaning that if it is theoretically possible to recreate a UFO photograph, then it must have been fake, but we don't actually know how likely or unlikely alien visitation is.

2) Just because there are many cases of conventional objects being misinterpreted as UFOs does not imply that all UFOs are conventional. If alien spaceships really were visiting Earth and the public was aware of this, the majority of sightings would still be conventional phenomena because most people are not expertly familiar with aircraft, atmospheric physics, astronomy, etc. A sampling of reports from the general public would still be mostly conventional, not actual UFOs, whether UFOs were real or not.

173

.

38

Comments Section

Single comment thread

See full discussion

[deleted]

•
4y ago
Interesting!

There is another aspect one can find in these contexts too.

A sloppy confusion between Debunked (Shown false or fraudulent) and Dismissed (Deemed insufficient, inconclusive or improbable).

It's not precisely what you are talking about but seem relevant and related.

a shift in burden of proof

In order to state that something has been debunked it demands that it can be shown to be false. Unlike just dismissing a claim for lack of credibility.

A simple and somewhat dumb example would be; if something could 'just as well' be a weather-balloon it's not unreasonable to dismiss a claim that it is a space-craft. That doesn't mean you have shown that it isn't.

4
u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar
MKULTRA_Escapee
OP

•
4y ago
I see what you're saying, and some skeptics are accurate in how they describe whether or not something is debunked or just interpreted differently, but my point is that the fact that the guy is a model maker shouldn't play any role whatsoever in the evaluation of the case because it is an expected coincidence, and the fact that it could, in their opinion only, be replicated doesn't suggest anything either because all kinds of real things can be replicated with camera trickery.

If we have to call all of the best cases hoaxes, even if there's no good reason to do so, I see a problem.

5
[deleted]

•
4y ago
Yeah you're right there.

Going back to the court of law that's unfortunately a common tactics. It's called discrediting a witness. Where you stack up coincidental facts about them to make the jury, who aren't often mathematicians, feel iffy about it.

It has more in common with a political debate than a scientific inquiry.

2
Related Answers Section
Related Answers
Most compelling evidence of alien life
Fascinating theories about ancient aliens
Impact of UFO sightings on society
Documentaries on extraterrestrial encounters
Unexplained phenomena linked to aliens
New to Reddit?
Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

"Serious" Former Senior CIA Insider: "The UFO truth is INDIGESTIBLE... too TERRIBLE to tell humanity."

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

23d ago

"Serious" Former Senior CIA Insider: "The UFO truth is INDIGESTIBLE... too TERRIBLE to tell humanity."

r/alien - "Serious" Former Senior CIA Insider: "The UFO truth is INDIGESTIBLE... too TERRIBLE to tell humanity."

1.3K upvotes · 1.4K comments

Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

5mo ago

Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!

r/alien - Has anyone ever seen this UFO Video? If it's not CGI/fake then it's crazy footage!

youtube

273 upvotes · 136 comments

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

4mo ago

The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

r/alien - The best UFO sighting photos of the 20th century

1.8K upvotes · 140 comments

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

8mo ago

[Serious] What happened to UFO/Alien disclosure that was going to happen?

100 upvotes · 148 comments

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

r/alien - A Man in the 1950s claimed he Lived on a UFO for 10 days and then they give him an important message. Has anyone heard of this case?

thehiddenarchive

354 upvotes · 149 comments

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

7mo ago

SERIOUS. Are there any UFOLOGISTS/Whistle blowers you believe more than others?

13 upvotes · 41 comments

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

10mo ago

Why Are There No High-Quality UFO Photos Despite Frequent Sightings?

43 comments

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

6mo ago

Has anyone ever been embarrassed by their interest in UFOs and aliens?

125 upvotes · 124 comments

Do you truly believe "the truth" of aliens and UFOs will be revealed in your lifetime?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

6mo ago

Do you truly believe "the truth" of aliens and UFOs will be revealed in your lifetime?

148 upvotes · 177 comments

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

20d ago

In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

r/aliens - In Tuesday's paper: These researchers say they have serious questions about UFOs, aliens.

80 upvotes · 12 comments

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

4mo ago

Can anyone remember that guy who said he was told the truth about UFOs and how planets are entities that are alive?

259 upvotes · 105 comments

I don't think aliens are what we think... and why the government can't disclose

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

2mo ago

I don't think aliens are what we think... and why the government can't disclose

934 upvotes · 426 comments

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

4mo ago

It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

r/aliens - It's Tomorrow! UFO Hearings in the US Congress! Remember, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, we wouldn't have even imagined this could happen. The world is changing!

338 upvotes · 63 comments

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

20d ago

UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims

r/aliens - UFOs Are 'Switching Our Nuclear Weapons On And Off', Source Claims
CO

517 upvotes · 168 comments

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

5mo ago

More than 100 Videos of UFOs in NASA broadcasts!

196 upvotes · 16 comments

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

8mo ago

On The Origin of UFOs.

r/aliens - On The Origin of UFOs.

1K upvotes · 29 comments

If we assume that consciousness plays a huge role in the UFO and ET phenomenon
than the next question is what are people doing to increase their consciousness?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

9d ago

If we assume that consciousness plays a huge role in the UFO and ET phenomenon
than the next question is what are people doing to increase their consciousness?

92 upvotes · 76 comments

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of
lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals
suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

5mo ago

Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the "night of
lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many individuals
suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences? Serious

r/aliens - Experiencers report having recurrent dreams sometimes called the
"night of lights" in which the nighttime sky is full of UFOs. What if many
individuals suddenly started to recall past encounters with UFO intelligences?
Serious

47 upvotes · 22 comments

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

8mo ago

Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

r/aliens - Nearly half of Americans think government is hiding evidence of UFOs!

214 upvotes · 29 comments

What's the best UFO/alien documentary that actually made you feel something?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

2mo ago

What's the best UFO/alien documentary that actually made you feel something?

17 upvotes · 20 comments

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

r/aliens icon

r/aliens

•

4mo ago

Anyone Occasionally Dream About UFOs?

45 upvotes · 34 comments

'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

1mo ago

'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

r/alien - 'No easy explanation': Scientists are debating a 70-year-old UFO mystery as new images come to light

livescience

151 upvotes · 12 comments

Are there any good UFO and Alien documentaries out there?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

2mo ago

Are there any good UFO and Alien documentaries out there?

27 upvotes · 38 comments

Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

r/alien icon

r/alien

•

26d ago

Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

r/alien - Why is UFO/UAP Disclosure Important for Society?

55 upvotes · 15 comments

Community Info Section

r/alien

Join

Alien

A community dedicated to discussing alien life through news, experiences, speculation and investigation. Please keep content related to extra-terrestrials or non-human intelligence behind the UAP phenomenon.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of February 26, 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of February 2022

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2022

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

WikipediaThe Free Encyclopedia

Donate

Create account

Log in

Base rate fallacy

Article

Talk

Read

Edit

View history

Tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Prosecutor's fallacy)

A hospital receiving more vaccinated COVID-19 patients than unvaccinated ones might suggest that the vaccine is ineffective, but such an imbalance is to be expected within a highly vaccinated population.[1]

The base rate fallacy, also called base rate neglect[2] or base rate bias, is a type of fallacy in which people tend to ignore the base rate (e.g., general prevalence) in favor of the information pertaining only to a specific case.[3] Base rate neglect is a specific form of the more general extension neglect.

It is also called the prosecutor's fallacy or defense attorney's fallacy when applied to the results of statistical tests (such as DNA tests) in the context of law proceedings. These terms were introduced by William C. Thompson and Edward Schumann in 1987,[4][5] although it has been argued that their definition of the prosecutor's fallacy extends to many additional invalid imputations of guilt or liability that are not analyzable as errors in base rates or Bayes's theorem.[6]

False positive paradox

An example of the base rate fallacy is the false positive paradox (also known as accuracy paradox). This paradox describes situations where there are more false positive test results than true positives (this means the classifier has a low precision). For example, if a facial recognition camera can identify wanted criminals 99% accurately, but analyzes 10,000 people a day, the high accuracy is outweighed by the number of tests; because of this, the program's list of criminals will likely have far more innocents (false positives) than criminals (true positives) because there are far more innocents than criminals overall. The probability of a positive test result is determined not only by the accuracy of the test but also by the characteristics of the sampled population.[7] The fundamental issue is that the far higher prevalence of true negatives means that the pool of people testing positively will be dominated by false positives, given that even a small fraction of the much larger [negative] group will produce a larger number of indicated positives than the larger fraction of the much smaller [positive] group.

When the prevalence, the proportion of those who have a given condition, is lower than the test's false positive rate, even tests that have a very low risk of giving a false positive in an individual case will give more false than true positives overall.[8]

It is especially counter-intuitive when interpreting a positive result in a test on a low-prevalence population after having dealt with positive results drawn from a high-prevalence population.[8] If the false positive rate of the test is higher than the proportion of the new population with the condition, then a test administrator whose experience has been drawn from testing in a high-prevalence population may conclude from experience that a positive test result usually indicates a positive subject, when in fact a false positive is far more likely to have occurred.

Examples

Example 1: Disease

High-prevalence population

Number of people	Infected	Uninfected	Total
Test positive	400		
(true positive)	30		
(false positive)	430		
Test negative	0		
(false negative)	570		

(true negative) 570
Total 400 600 1000

Imagine running an infectious disease test on a population A of 1,000 persons, of which 40% are infected. The test has a false positive rate of 5% (0.05) and a false negative rate of zero. The expected outcome of the 1,000 tests on population A would be:

Infected and test indicates disease (true positive)

$1000 \times$

40

/

100

= 400 people would receive a true positive

Uninfected and test indicates disease (false positive)

$1000 \times$

$100 - 40$

/

100

$\times 0.05 = 30$ people would receive a false positive

The remaining 570 tests are correctly negative.

So, in population A, a person receiving a positive test could be over 93% confident (

400

/

$30 + 400$

) that it correctly indicates infection.

Low-prevalence population

Number

of people Infected Uninfected Total

Test

positive 20

(true positive) 49

(false positive) 69

Test

negative 0

(false negative) 931

(true negative) 931

Total 20 980 1000

Now consider the same test applied to population B, of which only 2% are infected. The expected outcome of 1000 tests on population B would be:

Infected and test indicates disease (true positive)

$1000 \times$

2

/

100

= 20 people would receive a true positive

Uninfected and test indicates disease (false positive)

$1000 \times$

$100 - 2$

/

100

$\times 0.05 = 49$ people would receive a false positive

The remaining 931 tests are correctly negative.

In population B, only 20 of the 69 total people with a positive test result are actually infected. So, the probability of actually being infected after one is told that one is infected is only 29% (

20

/

$20 + 49$

) for a test that otherwise appears to be "95% accurate".

A tester with experience of group A might find it a paradox that in group B, a

result that had usually correctly indicated infection is now usually a false positive. The confusion of the posterior probability of infection with the prior probability of receiving a false positive is a natural error after receiving a health-threatening test result.

Example 2: Drunk drivers

Imagine that a group of police officers have breathalyzers displaying false drunkenness in 5% of the cases in which the driver is sober. However, the breathalyzers never fail to detect a truly drunk person. One in a thousand drivers is driving drunk. Suppose the police officers then stop a driver at random to administer a breathalyzer test. It indicates that the driver is drunk. No other information is known about them.

Many would estimate the probability that the driver is drunk as high as 95%, but the correct probability is about 2%.

An explanation for this is as follows: on average, for every 1,000 drivers tested,

1 driver is drunk, and it is 100% certain that for that driver there is a true positive test result, so there is 1 true positive test result
 999 drivers are not drunk, and among those drivers there are 5% false positive test results, so there are 49.95 false positive test results
 Therefore, the probability that any given driver among the $1 + 49.95 = 50.95$ positive test results really is drunk is

$$\frac{1}{50.95} \approx 0.019627$$

$$\{\displaystyle 1/50.95 \approx 0.019627\}.$$

The validity of this result does, however, hinge on the validity of the initial assumption that the police officer stopped the driver truly at random, and not because of bad driving. If that or another non-arbitrary reason for stopping the driver was present, then the calculation also involves the probability of a drunk driver driving competently and a non-drunk driver driving (in-)competently.

More formally, the same probability of roughly 0.02 can be established using Bayes' theorem. The goal is to find the probability that the driver is drunk given that the breathalyzer indicated they are drunk, which can be represented as

$$p(\text{drunk} \mid D)$$

$$\{\displaystyle p(\mathrm{drunk} \mid D)\}$$

where D means that the breathalyzer indicates that the driver is drunk. Using Bayes's theorem,

$$p(\text{drunk})$$

k
)
 =
 1.00

,
 p
 (
 D
 |
 s
 o
 b
 e
 r
)
 =

0.05.

```
{\displaystyle {\begin{aligned}p(\mathrm {drunk} )&=0.001,\\p(\mathrm {sober} )&=0.999,\\p(D\mid \mathrm {drunk} )&=1.00,\\p(D\mid \mathrm {sober} )&=0.05.\end{aligned}}}
```

As can be seen from the formula, one needs $p(D)$ for Bayes' theorem, which can be computed from the preceding values using the law of total probability:

p
 (
 D
)
 =
 p
 (
 D
 |
 d
 r
 u
 n
 k
)
 p
 (
 d
 r
 u
 n
 k
)
 +
 p
 (
 D
 |
 s
 o
 b
 e
 r
)
 p
 (
 s
 o
 b
 e

$$p(D) = p(D \mid \text{drunk}) \cdot p(\text{drunk}) + p(D \mid \text{sober}) \cdot p(\text{sober})$$

which gives

$$p(D) = (1.00 \times 0.001) + (0.05 \times 0.999) = 0.05095.$$

$$p(\text{drunk} \mid D) = \frac{1.00 \times 0.001}{0.05095} \approx 0.019627,$$

Plugging these numbers into Bayes' theorem, one finds that

$$p(\text{drunk} \mid D) = \frac{1.00 \times 0.001}{0.05095} \approx 0.019627,$$

which is the precision of the test.

Example 3: Terrorist identification

In a city of 1 million inhabitants, let there be 100 terrorists and 999,900 non-terrorists. To simplify the example, it is assumed that all people present in the city are inhabitants. Thus, the base rate probability of a randomly selected inhabitant of the city being a terrorist is 0.0001, and the base rate probability of that same inhabitant being a non-terrorist is 0.9999. In an attempt to catch the terrorists, the city installs an alarm system with a surveillance camera and automatic facial recognition software.

The software has two failure rates of 1%:

The false negative rate: If the camera scans a terrorist, a bell will ring 99%

of the time, and it will fail to ring 1% of the time.
The false positive rate: If the camera scans a non-terrorist, a bell will not ring 99% of the time, but it will ring 1% of the time.
Suppose now that an inhabitant triggers the alarm. Someone making the base rate fallacy would infer that there is a 99% probability that the detected person is a terrorist. Although the inference seems to make sense, it is actually bad reasoning, and a calculation below will show that the probability of a terrorist is actually near 1%, not near 99%.

The fallacy arises from confusing the natures of two different failure rates. The 'number of non-bells per 100 terrorists' ($P(\neg B | T)$, or the probability that the bell fails to ring given the inhabitant is a terrorist) and the 'number of non-terrorists per 100 bells' ($P(\neg T | B)$, or the probability that the inhabitant is a non-terrorist given the bell rings) are unrelated quantities; one is not necessarily equal—or even close—to the other. To show this, consider what happens if an identical alarm system were set up in a second city with no terrorists at all. As in the first city, the alarm sounds for 1 out of every 100 non-terrorist inhabitants detected, but unlike in the first city, the alarm never sounds for a terrorist. Therefore, 100% of all occasions of the alarm sounding are for non-terrorists, but a false negative rate cannot even be calculated. The 'number of non-terrorists per 100 bells' in that city is 100, yet $P(T | B) = 0\%$. There is zero chance that a terrorist has been detected given the ringing of the bell.

Imagine that the first city's entire population of one million people pass in front of the camera. About 99 of the 100 terrorists will trigger the alarm—and so will about 9,999 of the 999,900 non-terrorists. Therefore, about 10,098 people will trigger the alarm, among which about 99 will be terrorists. The probability that a person triggering the alarm actually is a terrorist is only about 99 in 10,098, which is less than 1% and very, very far below the initial guess of 99%.

The base rate fallacy is so misleading in this example because there are many more non-terrorists than terrorists, and the number of false positives (non-terrorists scanned as terrorists) is so much larger than the true positives (terrorists scanned as terrorists).

Multiple practitioners have argued that as the base rate of terrorism is extremely low, using data mining and predictive algorithms to identify terrorists cannot feasibly work due to the false positive paradox.[9][10][11][12] Estimates of the number of false positives for each accurate result vary from over ten thousand[12] to one billion;[10] consequently, investigating each lead would be cost- and time-prohibitive.[9][11] The level of accuracy required to make these models viable is likely unachievable. Foremost, the low base rate of terrorism also means there is a lack of data with which to make an accurate algorithm.[11] Further, in the context of detecting terrorism false negatives are highly undesirable and thus must be minimised as much as possible; however, this requires increasing sensitivity at the cost of specificity, increasing false positives.[12] It is also questionable whether the use of such models by law enforcement would meet the requisite burden of proof given that over 99% of results would be false positives.[12]

A distinct mechanism amplifies this effect in multi-attribute screening. While matching 15 specific pre-determined attributes has probability 10⁻³⁵ (one in 30 decillion), systems that flag individuals matching any 15 of 1,000 attributes have per-person false alert probabilities around 10⁻⁴—a difference of 31 orders of magnitude arising from the combinatorics of threshold rules, not low base rates alone. In a city of one million, this produces approximately 226 false alerts; the probability of zero false alerts is roughly 10⁻⁹⁹. Such systems exhibit sharp phase transitions at critical population sizes, beyond which failure becomes certain and cannot be prevented through threshold adjustment.[13]

Example 4: biological testing of a suspect

A crime is committed. Forensic analysis determines that the perpetrator has a certain blood type shared by 10% of the population. A suspect is arrested, and found to have that same blood type.

A prosecutor might charge the suspect with the crime on that basis alone, and claim at trial that the probability that the defendant is guilty is 90%.

However, this conclusion is only close to correct if the defendant was selected as the main suspect based on robust evidence discovered prior to the blood test and unrelated to it. Otherwise, the reasoning presented is flawed, as it overlooks the high prior probability (that is, prior to the blood test) that he is a random innocent person. Assume, for instance, that 1000 people live in the town where the crime occurred. This means that 100 people live there who have the perpetrator's blood type, of whom only one is the true perpetrator; therefore, the true probability that the defendant is guilty – based only on the fact that his blood type matches that of the killer – is only 1%, far less than the 90% argued by the prosecutor.

The prosecutor's fallacy involves assuming that the prior probability of a random match is equal to the probability that the defendant is innocent. When using it, a prosecutor questioning an expert witness may ask: "The odds of finding this evidence on an innocent man are so small that the jury can safely disregard the possibility that this defendant is innocent, correct?"[14] The claim assumes that the probability that evidence is found on an innocent man is the same as the probability that a man is innocent given that evidence was found on him, which is not true. Whilst the former is usually small (10% in the previous example) due to good forensic evidence procedures, the latter (99% in that example) does not directly relate to it and will often be much higher, since, in fact, it depends on the likely quite high prior odds of the defendant being a random innocent person.

Examples in law

See also: People v. Collins

O. J. Simpson trial

See also: O. J. Simpson murder trial

O. J. Simpson was tried and acquitted in 1995 for the murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Crime scene blood matched Simpson's with characteristics shared by 1 in 400 people. However, the defense argued that the number of people from Los Angeles matching the sample could fill a football stadium and that the figure of 1 in 400 was useless.[15][16] It would have been incorrect, and an example of prosecutor's fallacy, to rely solely on the "1 in 400" figure to deduce that a given person matching the sample would be likely to be the culprit.

Frequency tree of 100 000 battered American women showing the base rate fallacy made by the defense in the O. J. Simpson murder trial

In the same trial, the prosecution presented evidence that Simpson had been violent toward his wife. The defense argued that there was only one woman murdered for every 2500 women who were subjected to spousal abuse, and that any history of Simpson being violent toward his wife was irrelevant to the trial.

However, the reasoning behind the defense's calculation was fallacious.

According to author Gerd Gigerenzer, the correct probability requires additional context: Simpson's wife had not only been subjected to domestic violence, but rather subjected to domestic violence (by Simpson) and killed (by someone). Gigerenzer writes "the chances that a batterer actually murdered his partner, given that she has been killed, is about 8 in 9 or approximately 90%".[17] While most cases of spousal abuse do not end in murder, most cases of murder where there is a history of spousal abuse were committed by the spouse.

Sally Clark case

Sally Clark, a British woman, was accused in 1998 of having killed her first child at 11 weeks of age and then her second child at 8 weeks of age. The

prosecution had expert witness Sir Roy Meadow, a professor and consultant paediatrician,[18] testify that the probability of two children in the same family dying from SIDS is about 1 in 73 million. That was much less frequent than the actual rate measured in historical data – Meadow estimated it from single-SIDS death data, and the assumption that the probability of such deaths should be uncorrelated between infants.[19]

Meadow acknowledged that 1-in-73 million is not an impossibility, but argued that such accidents would happen "once every hundred years" and that, in a country of 15 million 2-child families, it is vastly more likely that the double-deaths are due to Münchausen syndrome by proxy than to such a rare accident. However, there is good reason to suppose that the likelihood of a death from SIDS in a family is significantly greater if a previous child has already died in these circumstances, (a genetic predisposition to SIDS is likely to invalidate that assumed statistical independence[20]) making some families more susceptible to SIDS and the error an outcome of the ecological fallacy.[21] The likelihood of two SIDS deaths in the same family cannot be soundly estimated by squaring the likelihood of a single such death in all otherwise similar families.[22]

The 1-in-73 million figure greatly underestimated the chance of two successive accidents, but even if that assessment were accurate, the court seems to have missed the fact that the 1-in-73 million number meant nothing on its own. As an a priori probability, it should have been weighed against the a priori probabilities of the alternatives. Given that two deaths had occurred, one of the following explanations must be true, and all of them are a priori extremely improbable:

Two successive deaths in the same family, both by SIDS

Double homicide (the prosecution's case)

Other possibilities (including one homicide and one case of SIDS)

It is unclear whether an estimate of the probability for the second possibility was ever proposed during the trial, or whether the comparison of the first two probabilities was understood to be the key estimate to make in the statistical analysis assessing the prosecution's case against the case for innocence.

Clark was convicted in 1999, resulting in a press release by the Royal Statistical Society which pointed out the mistakes.[23]

In 2002, Ray Hill (a mathematics professor at Salford) attempted to accurately compare the chances of these two possible explanations; he concluded that successive accidents are between 4.5 and 9 times more likely than are successive murders, so that the a priori odds of Clark's guilt were between 4.5 to 1 and 9 to 1 against.[24]

After the court found that the forensic pathologist who had examined both babies had withheld exculpatory evidence, a higher court later quashed Clark's conviction, on 29 January 2003.[25]

Findings in psychology

In experiments, people have been found to prefer individuating information over general information when the former is available.[26][27][28]

In some experiments, students were asked to estimate the grade point averages (GPAs) of hypothetical students. When given relevant statistics about GPA distribution, students tended to ignore them if given descriptive information about the particular student even if the new descriptive information was obviously of little or no relevance to school performance.[27] This finding has been used to argue that interviews are an unnecessary part of the college admissions process because interviewers are unable to pick successful candidates better than basic statistics.

Psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky attempted to explain this finding in terms of a simple rule or "heuristic" called representativeness. They argued

that many judgments relating to likelihood, or to cause and effect, are based on how representative one thing is of another, or of a category.[27] Kahneman considers base rate neglect to be a specific form of extension neglect.[29] Richard Nisbett has argued that some attributional biases like the fundamental attribution error are instances of the base rate fallacy: people do not use the "consensus information" (the "base rate") about how others behaved in similar situations and instead prefer simpler dispositional attributions.[30]

There is considerable debate in psychology on the conditions under which people do or do not appreciate base rate information.[31][32] Researchers in the heuristics-and-biases program have stressed empirical findings showing that people tend to ignore base rates and make inferences that violate certain norms of probabilistic reasoning, such as Bayes' theorem. The conclusion drawn from this line of research was that human probabilistic thinking is fundamentally flawed and error-prone.[33] Other researchers have emphasized the link between cognitive processes and information formats, arguing that such conclusions are not generally warranted.[34][35]

Consider again Example 2 from above. The required inference is to estimate the (posterior) probability that a (randomly picked) driver is drunk, given that the breathalyzer test is positive. Formally, this probability can be calculated using Bayes' theorem, as shown above. However, there are different ways of presenting the relevant information. Consider the following, formally equivalent variant of the problem:

1 out of 1000 drivers are driving drunk. The breathalyzers never fail to detect a truly drunk person. For 50 out of the 999 drivers who are not drunk the breathalyzer falsely displays drunkenness. Suppose the policemen then stop a driver at random, and force them to take a breathalyzer test. It indicates that they are drunk. No other information is known about them. Estimate the probability the driver is really drunk.

In this case, the relevant numerical information— $p(\text{drunk})$, $p(D \mid \text{drunk})$, $p(D \mid \text{sober})$ —is presented in terms of natural frequencies with respect to a certain reference class (see reference class problem). Empirical studies show that people's inferences correspond more closely to Bayes' rule when information is presented this way, helping to overcome base-rate neglect in laypeople[35] and experts.[36] As a consequence, organizations like the Cochrane Collaboration recommend using this kind of format for communicating health statistics.[37] Teaching people to translate these kinds of Bayesian reasoning problems into natural frequency formats is more effective than merely teaching them to plug probabilities (or percentages) into Bayes' theorem.[38] It has also been shown that graphical representations of natural frequencies (e.g., icon arrays, hypothetical outcome plots) help people to make better inferences.[38][39][40][41]

One important reason why natural frequency formats are helpful is that this information format facilitates the required inference because it simplifies the necessary calculations. This can be seen when using an alternative way of computing the required probability $p(\text{drunk} \mid D)$:

$$p(D \mid \text{drunk}) = \frac{N(D \mid \text{drunk})}{N(\text{drunk})}$$

r
u
n
k
n
D
)
N
(
D
)
=
1
51
=
0.0196

$$p(\text{drunk} \mid D) = \frac{N(\text{drunk} \cap D)}{N(D)} = \frac{1}{51} = 0.0196$$

where $N(\text{drunk} \cap D)$ denotes the number of drivers that are drunk and get a positive breathalyzer result, and $N(D)$ denotes the total number of cases with a positive breathalyzer result. The equivalence of this equation to the above one follows from the axioms of probability theory, according to which $N(\text{drunk} \cap D) = N \times p(D \mid \text{drunk}) \times p(\text{drunk})$. Importantly, although this equation is formally equivalent to Bayes' rule, it is not psychologically equivalent. Using natural frequencies simplifies the inference because the required mathematical operation can be performed on natural numbers, instead of normalized fractions (i.e., probabilities), because it makes the high number of false positives more transparent, and because natural frequencies exhibit a "nested-set structure". [42][43]

Not every frequency format facilitates Bayesian reasoning.[43][44] Natural frequencies refer to frequency information that results from natural sampling, [45] which preserves base rate information (e.g., number of drunken drivers when taking a random sample of drivers). This is different from systematic sampling, in which base rates are fixed a priori (e.g., in scientific experiments). In the latter case it is not possible to infer the posterior probability $p(\text{drunk} \mid \text{positive test})$ from comparing the number of drivers who are drunk and test positive compared to the total number of people who get a positive breathalyzer result, because base rate information is not preserved and must be explicitly re-introduced using Bayes' theorem.

See also

Precision and recall

Data dredging – Misuse of data analysis

Evidence under Bayes' theorem

Inductive argument – Method of logical reasoning

List of cognitive biases

List of paradoxes – List of statements that appear to contradict themselves

Misleading vividness – Evidence relying on personal testimony

Prevention paradox – Situation in epidemiology

Simpson's paradox – Error in statistical reasoning with groups

Intuitive statistics

R v Adams

Denominator neglect

References

"COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccination Status" (PDF).

Washington State Department of Health. 2023-01-18. Archived (PDF) from the original on 2023-01-26. Retrieved 2023-02-14. If the exposure to COVID-19 stays the same, as more individuals are vaccinated, more cases, hospitalizations, and deaths will be in vaccinated individuals, as they will continue to make up more and more of the population. For example, if 100% of the population was vaccinated, 100% of cases would be among vaccinated people.

Welsh, Matthew B.; Navarro, Daniel J. (2012). "Seeing is believing: Priors, trust, and base rate neglect". *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision*

Processes. 119 (1): 1-14. doi:10.1016/j.obhdp.2012.04.001. hdl:2440/41190. ISSN 0749-5978.

"Logical Fallacy: The Base Rate Fallacy". Fallacyfiles.org. Retrieved 2013-06-15.

Thompson, W.C.; Schumann, E.L. (1987). "Interpretation of Statistical Evidence in Criminal Trials: The Prosecutor's Fallacy and the Defense Attorney's Fallacy". *Law and Human Behavior*. 11 (3): 167. doi:10.1007/BF01044641. JSTOR 1393631. S2CID 147472915.

Fountain, John; Gunby, Philip (February 2010). "Ambiguity, the Certainty Illusion, and Gigerenzer's Natural Frequency Approach to Reasoning with Inverse Probabilities" (PDF). University of Canterbury. p. 6.[permanent dead link]

Suss, Richard A. (October 4, 2023). "The Prosecutor's Fallacy Framed as a Sample Space Substitution". OSF Preprints. doi:10.31219/osf.io/cs248.

Rheinfurth, M. H.; Howell, L. W. (March 1998). *Probability and Statistics in Aerospace Engineering*. NASA. p. 16. MESSAGE: False positive tests are more probable than true positive tests when the overall population has a low prevalence of the disease. This is called the false-positive paradox.

Vacher, H. L. (May 2003). "Quantitative literacy - drug testing, cancer screening, and the identification of igneous rocks". *Journal of Geoscience Education*: 2. At first glance, this seems perverse: the less the students as a whole use steroids, the more likely a student identified as a user will be a non-user. This has been called the False Positive Paradox - Citing: Gonick, L.; Smith, W. (1993). *The cartoon guide to statistics*. New York: Harper Collins. p. 49.

Munk, Timme Bisgaard (1 September 2017). "100,000 false positives for every real terrorist: Why anti-terror algorithms don't work". *First Monday*. 22 (9). doi:10.5210/fm.v22i9.7126.

Schneier, Bruce. "Why Data Mining Won't Stop Terror". *Wired*. ISSN 1059-1028. Retrieved 2022-08-30.

Jonas, Jeff; Harper, Jim (2006-12-11). "Effective Counterterrorism and the Limited Role of Predictive Data Mining". Cato Institute. Retrieved 2022-08-30.

Sageman, Marc (2021-02-17). "The Implication of Terrorism's Extremely Low Base Rate". *Terrorism and Political Violence*. 33 (2): 302-311. doi:10.1080/09546553.2021.1880226. ISSN 0954-6553. S2CID 232341781.

Pollanen, Marco (2026). "The Probabilistic Foundations of Surveillance Failure: From False Alerts to Structural Bias". *Mathematics*. 14 (1): 49. doi:10.3390/math14010049.

Fenton, Norman; Neil, Martin; Berger, Daniel (June 2016). "Bayes and the Law". *Annual Review of Statistics and Its Application*. 3 (1): 51-77. Bibcode:2016AnRSA...3...51F. doi:10.1146/annurev-statistics-041715-033428. PMC 4934658. PMID 27398389.

Robertson, B., & Vignaux, G. A. (1995). *Interpreting evidence: Evaluating forensic evidence in the courtroom*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons.

Rossmo, D. Kim (2009). *Criminal Investigative Failures*. CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group.

Gigerenzer, G., *Reckoning with Risk: Learning to Live with Uncertainty*, Penguin, (2003)

"Resolution adopted by the Senate (21 October 1998) on the retirement of Professor Sir Roy Meadow". *Reporter*. No. 428. University of Leeds. 30 November 1998. Archived from the original on 2016-04-16. Retrieved 2015-10-17.

The population-wide probability of a SIDS fatality was about 1 in 1,303; Meadow generated his 1-in-73 million estimate from the lesser probability of SIDS death in the Clark household, which had lower risk factors (e.g. non-smoking). In this sub-population he estimated the probability of a single death at 1 in 8,500.

See: Joyce, H. (September 2002). "Beyond reasonable doubt" (pdf).

plus.maths.org. Retrieved 2010-06-12.. Professor Ray Hill questioned even this first step (1/8,500 vs 1/1,300) in two ways: firstly, on the grounds that it was biased, excluding those factors that increased risk (especially that both children were boys) and (more importantly) because reductions in SIDS risk factors will proportionately reduce murder risk factors, so that the relative frequencies of Münchausen syndrome by proxy and SIDS will remain in the same ratio as in the general population: Hill, Ray (2002). "Cot Death or Murder? - Weighing the Probabilities". it is patently unfair to use the characteristics which basically make her a good, clean-living, mother as factors which count

against her. Yes, we can agree that such factors make a natural death less likely – but those same characteristics also make murder less likely.

Sweeney, John; Law, Bill (July 15, 2001). "Gene find casts doubt on double 'cot death' murders". *The Observer*. Archived from the original on 2012-07-11. Vincent Scheurer. "Convicted on Statistics?". Retrieved 2010-05-21.

Hill, R. (2004). "Multiple sudden infant deaths – coincidence or beyond coincidence?" (PDF). *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. 18 (5): 321. doi:10.1111/j.1365-3016.2004.00560.x. PMID 15367318. Archived from the original (PDF) on 2012-08-30. Retrieved 2010-06-13.

"Royal Statistical Society concerned by issues raised in Sally Clark case" (PDF). 23 October 2001. Archived from the original (PDF) on 24 August 2011. Society does not tolerate doctors making serious clinical errors because it is widely understood that such errors could mean the difference between life and death. The case of R v. Sally Clark is one example of a medical expert witness making a serious statistical error, one which may have had a profound effect on the outcome of the case

The uncertainty in this range is mainly driven by uncertainty in the likelihood of killing a second child, having killed a first, see: Hill, R. (2004). "Multiple sudden infant deaths – coincidence or beyond coincidence?" (PDF). *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*. 18 (5): 322-323. doi:10.1111/j.1365-3016.2004.00560.x. PMID 15367318. Archived from the original (PDF) on 2012-08-30. Retrieved 2010-06-13.

"R v Clark. [2003] EWCA Crim 1020 (11 April 2003)". www.bailii.org.

Bar-Hillel, Maya (1980). "The base-rate fallacy in probability judgments" (PDF). *Acta Psychologica*. 44 (3): 211-233. doi:10.1016/0001-6918(80)90046-3. Kahneman, Daniel; Amos Tversky (1973). "On the psychology of prediction". *Psychological Review*. 80 (4): 237-251. doi:10.1037/h0034747. S2CID 17786757.

Tversky, Amos; Kahneman, Daniel (1974-09-27). "Judgment under uncertainty: Heuristics and biases". *Science*. 185 (4157): 1124-1131. Bibcode:1974Sci...185.1124T. doi:10.1126/science.185.4157.1124. PMID 17835457. S2CID 143452957.

Kahneman, Daniel (2000). "Evaluation by moments, past and future". In Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky (ed.). *Choices, Values and Frames*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-62749-4.

Nisbett, Richard E.; E. Borgida; R. Crandall; H. Reed (1976). "Popular induction: Information is not always informative". In J. S. Carroll & J. W. Payne (ed.). *Cognition and social behavior*. Vol. 2. John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated. pp. 227-236. ISBN 0-470-99007-4.

Koehler, J. J. (2010). "The base rate fallacy reconsidered: Descriptive, normative, and methodological challenges". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 19: 1-17. doi:10.1017/S0140525X00041157. S2CID 53343238.

Barbey, A. K.; Sloman, S. A. (2007). "Base-rate respect: From ecological rationality to dual processes". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 30 (3): 241-254, discussion 255-297. doi:10.1017/S0140525X07001653. PMID 17963533. S2CID 31741077.

Tversky, A.; Kahneman, D. (1974). "Judgment under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases". *Science*. 185 (4157): 1124-1131. Bibcode:1974Sci...185.1124T. doi:10.1126/science.185.4157.1124. PMID 17835457. S2CID 143452957.

Cosmides, Leda; John Tooby (1996). "Are humans good intuitive statisticians after all? Rethinking some conclusions of the literature on judgment under uncertainty". *Cognition*. 58: 1-73. CiteSeerX 10.1.1.131.8290. doi:10.1016/0010-0277(95)00664-8. S2CID 18631755.

Gigerenzer, G.; Hoffrage, U. (1995). "How to improve Bayesian reasoning without instruction: Frequency formats". *Psychological Review*. 102 (4): 684. CiteSeerX 10.1.1.128.3201. doi:10.1037/0033-295X.102.4.684. S2CID 16281385.

Hoffrage, U.; Lindsey, S.; Hertwig, R.; Gigerenzer, G. (2000). "Medicine: Communicating Statistical Information". *Science*. 290 (5500): 2261-2262. doi:10.1126/science.290.5500.2261. hdl:11858/00-001M-0000-0025-9B18-3. PMID 11188724. S2CID 33050943.

Akl, E. A.; Oxman, A. D.; Herrin, J.; Vist, G. E.; Terrenato, I.; Sperati, F.; Costiniuk, C.; Blank, D.; Schünemann, H. (2011). Schünemann, Holger (ed.). "Using alternative statistical formats for presenting risks and risk reductions". *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2011 (3) CD006776. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD006776.pub2. PMC 6464912. PMID 21412897.

Sedlmeier, P.; Gigerenzer, G. (2001). "Teaching Bayesian reasoning in less than two hours". *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. 130 (3): 380–400. doi:10.1037/0096-3445.130.3.380. hdl:11858/00-001M-0000-0025-9504-E. PMID 11561916. S2CID 11147078.

Brase, G. L. (2009). "Pictorial representations in statistical reasoning". *Applied Cognitive Psychology*. 23 (3): 369–381. doi:10.1002/acp.1460. S2CID 18817707.

Edwards, A.; Elwyn, G.; Mulley, A. (2002). "Explaining risks: Turning numerical data into meaningful pictures". *BMJ*. 324 (7341): 827–830.

doi:10.1136/bmj.324.7341.827. PMC 1122766. PMID 11934777.

Kim, Yea-Seul; Walls, Logan A.; Krafft, Peter; Hullman, Jessica (2 May 2019). "A Bayesian Cognition Approach to Improve Data Visualization". *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. pp. 1–14. arXiv:1901.02949. doi:10.1145/3290605.3300912. ISBN 978-1-4503-5970-2. S2CID 57761146.

Giroto, V.; Gonzalez, M. (2001). "Solving probabilistic and statistical problems: A matter of information structure and question form". *Cognition*. 78 (3): 247–276. doi:10.1016/S0010-0277(00)00133-5. PMID 11124351. S2CID 8588451.

Hoffrage, U.; Gigerenzer, G.; Krauss, S.; Martignon, L. (2002). "Representation facilitates reasoning: What natural frequencies are and what they are not". *Cognition*. 84 (3): 343–352. doi:10.1016/S0010-0277(02)00050-1. PMID 12044739. S2CID 9595672.

Gigerenzer, G.; Hoffrage, U. (1999). "Overcoming difficulties in Bayesian reasoning: A reply to Lewis and Keren (1999) and Mellers and McGraw (1999)". *Psychological Review*. 106 (2): 425. doi:10.1037/0033-295X.106.2.425. hdl:11858/00-001M-0000-0025-9CB4-8.

Kleiter, G. D. (1994). "Natural Sampling: Rationality without Base Rates". *Contributions to Mathematical Psychology, Psychometrics, and Methodology. Recent Research in Psychology*. pp. 375–388. doi:10.1007/978-1-4612-4308-3_27. ISBN 978-0-387-94169-1.

External links

The Base Rate Fallacy The Fallacy Files

vte

Biases

vte

Common fallacies (list)

Categories: Relevance fallaciesCognitive biasesBehavioral financeProbability fallaciesStatistical paradoxes

This page was last edited on 25 December 2025, at 16:05 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Privacy policyAbout WikipediaDisclaimersContact WikipediaLegal & safety contactsCode of ConductDevelopersStatisticsCookie statementMobile view

Wikimedia Foundation

Powered by MediaWiki

Skip to main content

Support Us

How Covert Agents Infiltrate the Internet to Manipulate, Deceive, and Destroy Reputations

One of the many pressing stories that remains to be told from the Snowden archive is how western intelligence agencies are attempting to manipulate and control online discourse with extreme tactics of deception and reputation-destruction. <!--more-->

Glenn Greenwald

February 24 2014, 6:25 p.m.

Share

One of the many pressing stories that remains to be told from the Snowden archive is how western intelligence agencies are attempting to manipulate and control online discourse with extreme tactics of deception and reputation-destruction. It's time to tell a chunk of that story, complete with the relevant documents.

Over the last several weeks, I worked with NBC News to publish a series of articles about "dirty trick" tactics used by GCHQ's previously secret unit, JTRIG (Joint Threat Research Intelligence Group). These were based on four classified GCHQ documents presented to the NSA and the other three partners in the English-speaking "Five Eyes" alliance. Today, we at the Intercept are publishing another new JTRIG document, in full, entitled "The Art of Deception: Training for Online Covert Operations."

By publishing these stories one by one, our NBC reporting highlighted some of the key, discrete revelations: the monitoring of YouTube and Blogger, the targeting of Anonymous with the very same DDoS attacks they accuse "hacktivists" of using, the use of "honey traps" (luring people into compromising situations using sex) and destructive viruses. But, here, I want to focus and elaborate on the overarching point revealed by all of these documents: namely, that these agencies are attempting to control, infiltrate, manipulate, and warp online discourse, and in doing so, are compromising the integrity of the internet itself.

Among the core self-identified purposes of JTRIG are two tactics: (1) to inject all sorts of false material onto the internet in order to destroy the reputation of its targets; and (2) to use social sciences and other techniques to manipulate online discourse and activism to generate outcomes it considers desirable. To see how extremist these programs are, just consider the tactics they boast of using to achieve those ends: "false flag operations" (posting material to the internet and falsely attributing it to someone else), fake victim blog posts (pretending to be a victim of the individual whose reputation they want to destroy), and posting "negative information" on various forums. Here is one illustrative list of tactics from the latest GCHQ document we're publishing today:

Other tactics aimed at individuals are listed here, under the revealing title "discredit a target":

Then there are the tactics used to destroy companies the agency targets:

GCHQ describes the purpose of JTRIG in starkly clear terms: "using online techniques to make something happen in the real or cyber world," including "information ops (influence or disruption)."

Critically, the "targets" for this deceit and reputation-destruction extend far beyond the customary roster of normal spycraft: hostile nations and their leaders, military agencies, and intelligence services. In fact, the discussion of many of these techniques occurs in the context of using them in lieu of "traditional law enforcement" against people suspected (but not charged or convicted) of ordinary crimes or, more broadly still, "hacktivism", meaning those who use online protest activity for political ends.

The title page of one of these documents reflects the agency's own awareness that it is "pushing the boundaries" by using "cyber offensive" techniques against people who have nothing to do with terrorism or national security

threats, and indeed, centrally involves law enforcement agents who investigate ordinary crimes:

No matter your views on Anonymous, "hacktivists" or garden-variety criminals, it is not difficult to see how dangerous it is to have secret government agencies being able to target any individuals they want – who have never been charged with, let alone convicted of, any crimes – with these sorts of online, deception-based tactics of reputation destruction and disruption. There is a strong argument to make, as Jay Leiderman demonstrated in the Guardian in the context of the Paypal 14 hacktivist persecution, that the "denial of service" tactics used by hacktivists result in (at most) trivial damage (far less than the cyber-warfare tactics favored by the US and UK) and are far more akin to the type of political protest protected by the First Amendment.

The broader point is that, far beyond hacktivists, these surveillance agencies have vested themselves with the power to deliberately ruin people's reputations and disrupt their online political activity even though they've been charged with no crimes, and even though their actions have no conceivable connection to terrorism or even national security threats. As Anonymous expert Gabriella Coleman of McGill University told me, "targeting Anonymous and hacktivists amounts to targeting citizens for expressing their political beliefs, resulting in the stifling of legitimate dissent." Pointing to this study she published, Professor Coleman vehemently contested the assertion that "there is anything terrorist/violent in their actions."

Government plans to monitor and influence internet communications, and covertly infiltrate online communities in order to sow dissension and disseminate false information, have long been the source of speculation. Harvard Law Professor Cass Sunstein, a close Obama adviser and the White House's former head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, wrote a controversial paper in 2008 proposing that the US government employ teams of covert agents and pseudo-"independent" advocates to "cognitively infiltrate" online groups and websites, as well as other activist groups.

Sunstein also proposed sending covert agents into "chat rooms, online social networks, or even real-space groups" which spread what he views as false and damaging "conspiracy theories" about the government. Ironically, the very same Sunstein was recently named by Obama to serve as a member of the NSA review panel created by the White House, one that – while disputing key NSA claims – proceeded to propose many cosmetic reforms to the agency's powers (most of which were ignored by the President who appointed them).

But these GCHQ documents are the first to prove that a major western government is using some of the most controversial techniques to disseminate deception online and harm the reputations of targets. Under the tactics they use, the state is deliberately spreading lies on the internet about whichever individuals it targets, including the use of what GCHQ itself calls "false flag operations" and emails to people's families and friends. Who would possibly trust a government to exercise these powers at all, let alone do so in secret, with virtually no oversight, and outside of any cognizable legal framework?

Then there is the use of psychology and other social sciences to not only understand, but shape and control, how online activism and discourse unfolds. Today's newly published document touts the work of GCHQ's "Human Science Operations Cell," devoted to "online human intelligence" and "strategic influence and disruption":

Under the title "Online Covert Action", the document details a variety of means

to engage in "influence and info ops" as well as "disruption and computer net attack," while dissecting how human beings can be manipulated using "leaders," "trust," "obedience" and "compliance":

The documents lay out theories of how humans interact with one another, particularly online, and then attempt to identify ways to influence the outcomes – or "game" it:

We submitted numerous questions to GCHQ, including: (1) Does GCHQ in fact engage in "false flag operations" where material is posted to the Internet and falsely attributed to someone else?; (2) Does GCHQ engage in efforts to influence or manipulate political discourse online?; and (3) Does GCHQ's mandate include targeting common criminals (such as boiler room operators), or only foreign threats?

As usual, they ignored those questions and opted instead to send their vague and nonresponsive boilerplate: "It is a longstanding policy that we do not comment on intelligence matters. Furthermore, all of GCHQ's work is carried out in accordance with a strict legal and policy framework which ensures that our activities are authorised, necessary and proportionate, and that there is rigorous oversight, including from the Secretary of State, the Interception and Intelligence Services Commissioners and the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee. All our operational processes rigorously support this position."

These agencies' refusal to "comment on intelligence matters" – meaning: talk at all about anything and everything they do – is precisely why whistleblowing is so urgent, the journalism that supports it so clearly in the public interest, and the increasingly unhinged attacks by these agencies so easy to understand. Claims that government agencies are infiltrating online communities and engaging in "false flag operations" to discredit targets are often dismissed as conspiracy theories, but these documents leave no doubt they are doing precisely that.

Whatever else is true, no government should be able to engage in these tactics: what justification is there for having government agencies target people – who have been charged with no crime – for reputation-destruction, infiltrate online political communities, and develop techniques for manipulating online discourse? But to allow those actions with no public knowledge or accountability is particularly unjustifiable.

Documents referenced in this article:

The Art of Deception: Training for a New Generation of Online Covert Operations
Share
IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT.

What we're seeing right now from Donald Trump is a full-on authoritarian takeover of the U.S. government.

This is not hyperbole.

Court orders are being ignored. MAGA loyalists have been put in charge of the military and federal law enforcement agencies. The Department of Government Efficiency has stripped Congress of its power of the purse. News outlets that challenge Trump have been banished or put under investigation.

Yet far too many are still covering Trump's assault on democracy like politics as usual, with flattering headlines describing Trump as "unconventional," "testing the boundaries," and "aggressively flexing power."

The Intercept has long covered authoritarian governments, billionaire oligarchs, and backsliding democracies around the world. We understand the challenge we face in Trump and the vital importance of press freedom in defending democracy.

We're independent of corporate interests. Will you help us?

\$5

\$8

\$10

\$15

One Time

Monthly

Donate

Contact the author:

Glenn Greenwald

glenn.greenwald@theintercept.com

Latest Stories

U.S. President Donald Trump listens to a question from a reporter during a press conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky following their meeting at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club on December 28, 2025 in Palm Beach, Florida.

License to Kill

Did Trump Just Confess to Attacking Venezuela?

Nick Turse - Dec. 29

"They have a big plant or a big facility where the ships come from. Two nights ago, we knocked that out. We hit them very hard."

Tarek Mansour, co-founder of Kalshi, during a joint SEC-CFTC roundtable at SEC headquarters in Washington, DC, US, on Monday, Sept. 29, 2025.

Voices

These Apps Let You Bet on Deportations and Famine. Mainstream Media Is Eating It Up.

Tekendra Parmar - Dec. 29

"The long-term vision is to financialize everything and create a tradable asset out of any difference in opinion."

Rep. Dan Goldman (D-N.Y.) arrives for a vote at the U.S. Capitol March 31, 2025. (Francis Chung/POLITICO via AP Images)

Midterms 2026

Dan Goldman Supported Warrantless Spying on Americans. Now His Primary Opponent Is Hitting Him for It.

Matt Sledge - Dec. 28

Goldman was among a clutch of Democrats who voted for an NSA spy program, despite warnings about Trump's return to power.

Join The Conversation

About

Support Us

Join Newsletter

Jobs

Contact Us

Policies
Terms of Use
Privacy
© The Intercept. All rights reserved

Enter your email to keep reading for free.
This is not a paywall.

Email address

I'm in

By signing up, I agree to receive emails from The Intercept and to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.

(opens in a new tab)Skip to main content
Astroturfing Information Megathread- revision 8 : r/shills

Open menu

r/shills
Search in r/shills
Log In

Expand user menu

Back
Go to shills
r/shills
•
10y ago
NutritionResearch

Astroturfing Information Megathread- revision 8
Sorry, this post was removed by Reddit's filters.
681

•
76
Comments Section
[deleted]

•
10y ago
Just thought I'd contribute to this thread

152
NutritionResearch
OP

•
10y ago
I assume that a lot of shills are losing their jobs to bots, as most of us are. With that being the case, many of them will probably come out and release some details about their jobs.

Here is a list of shill confessions:

"Once we isolate key people, we look for people we know are in their upstream -- people that they read posts from, but who themselves are less influential. We then either start flame wars with bots to derail the conversations that are influencing influential people, or else send off specific tasks for sockpuppets (changing this wording of an idea here; cause an ideological split there; etc)."

What I learned selling my Reddit accounts

Confession of Hillary Shill from /r/SandersForPresident

Shill whistleblower, claims to have derailed discussions and called people anti-semites, ruined reputations of users by searching their account history, amongst other things.

Fracking shill whistleblower spills the beans on Fracking Internet PR

/r/netsec talks about gaming reddit via sockpuppets and how online discourse is (easily) manipulated.

Whistleblower and subsequent investigation: Paid trolls on /r/Bitcoin

Reddit user comes clean about being paid to chat on Reddit. They work to promote a politician, although they don't specify which one. (Admins claim this wasn't a shill)

Screenshot of post since it was removed.

I'm not certain that all of these are legit confessions, which is why I chose to omit them from the above post, but some of these are very interesting.

Edit:

Alleged paid shill leaks details of organization and actions.

88

u/apistograma avatar
apistograma

•

9y ago

Oh, god. I'm sure I was arguing with one person in a similar position to the one in your screenshot some weeks ago in a youtube video about GMOs.

I'm not even completely against GMOs, I was mainly arguing that people should be aware of the problems that the current loose regulation in the US and EU could bring long-term. I understand that every person has their own opinion, and most of them were nice and wanted to add to the discussion, including some of the most adamant supporters of GMOs.

But there was one dude that was making me mad. He just spend all the time twisting my points, defending the industry (even when I didn't attack any firm in particular), and derailing all my topics. He followed most of the points you mentioned, included the one about conspiracy theories (when he asked me if I believed in the lunar landing lol).

I didn't know exactly why, but that commenter left me with a very uncomfortable feeling that he wasn't being honest, like when you see a politician talking in an interview. Now I'm pretty sure why. Thank you, you're doing a very nice service to everyone on the internet.

16

4 more replies
[deleted]

•

10y ago

Great info man, thank you and saved.

11

2 more replies

2 more replies
u/DirectImageLinkBot avatar

DirectImageLinkBot

•

10y ago

Here is a direct link to your image for the benefit of mobile users

[^Feedback](#) | [Already a direct ^link?](#) | [Why do I ^exist?](#) | [^Source](#)

8

u/Lord_Draconia avatar

Lord_Draconia

•

9y ago

I actually feel bad for all the shills and hope they find better jobs.

6

3 more replies

u/comrade-jim avatar

comrade-jim

•

10y ago

Posting one of my old comments:

People are in denial that they're being manipulated...

Operation Earnest Voice is an astroturfing campaign by the US government. The aim of the initiative is to use sockpuppets to spread pro-American propaganda on social networking sites.

The US government signed a \$2.8 million contract with the Ntrepid web-security company to develop a specialized software, allowing agents of the government to post propaganda on "foreign-language websites", but recently the law preventing them from using this in America was repealed, allowing them to spread pro-American propaganda even on American media.

Main characteristics of the software, as stated in the software development request, are:

50 user "operator" licenses, 10 sockpuppets controllable by each user.

Sockpuppets are to be "replete with background, history, supporting details, and cyber presences that are technically, culturally and geographically consistent". Sockpuppets are to "be able to appear to originate in nearly any part of the world."

A special secure VPN, allowing sockpuppets to appear to be posting from "randomly selected IP addresses," in order to "hide the existence of the operation."

50 static IP addresses to enable government agencies to "manage their persistent online personas," with identities of government and enterprise organizations protected which will allow for different state agents to use the same sockpuppet, and easily switch between different sockpuppets to "look like ordinary users as opposed to one organization."

9 private servers, "based on the geographic area of operations the customer is operating within and which allow a customer's online persona(s) to appear to originate from." These servers should use commercial hosting centers around the world.

Virtual machine environments, deleted after each session termination, to avoid interaction with "any virus, worm, or malicious software."

The US also operates in conjunction with the UK to collect and share

intelligence data, and the GCHQ has their own internet shilling program.

There is not enough evidence to say without a doubt that the US government manipulates American social media, but we can say without a doubt that they do have sophisticated software for the purpose of spreading propaganda, they do manipulate social media, there are no longer propaganda laws preventing them from doing so in America, and multiple world governments have these programs in place (including but not limited to: Russia, China, Israel, and the UK.)

You can keep telling your self the US government would never manipulate social media, or violate the 4th amendment, or collect data en masse, or you can wake up and accept that this is the world we live in and ignoring it will never solve the problem.

38

NutritionResearch

OP

•

10y ago

Wired wrote about some disturbing stuff in 2008.

Wired: Air Force Releases 'Counter-Blog' Marching Orders

In that article, they cite this:

<http://www.webinknow.com/2008/12/the-us-air-force-armed-with-social-media.html>

Capt. Faggard and his Air Force Emerging Technology team is responsible for developing strategy, policy and plans for an ever-changing communication landscape for communicators worldwide. What was most interesting is that with Capt. Faggard leading the way, the Air Force employs 330,000 communicators! Their mission is to use current and developing Web 2.0 applications as a way to actively engage conversations between Airmen and the general public. Yes, that's right, the goal of the program is that every single Airman is an on-line communicator.

Besides Twitter, Capt. Faggard writes The Official Blog of the U.S. Air Force; has pages on YouTube, MySpace and Facebook; helps publicize a Second Life area called Huffman Prairie; contributes to iReport (user name USAFPA); and is on Friendfeed, Digg, Delicious, Slashdot, Newsvine, Reddit. There's Air Force widgets. And there's even a video mashup contest for high schools to show school spirit sponsored by the Air Force.

It's not just the Air Force. Several months ago I led a training session organized by SSgt Alexis Mulero, Public Affairs Chief for the communicators in the 1st Marine Corps Recruiting District. Since most teenagers and young adults spend lots of time on Facebook, YouTube, and other social media sites, a major challenge in recruiting young people into the Marines is reaching them online. As a result of a focus on social media, SSgt Mulero says that his team has greatly increased the positive exposure of the Corps across the Northeastern U.S.

6

1 more reply

u/BANMEIKEEPCOMINGBACK avatar

BANMEIKEEPCOMINGBACK

•

10y ago

And people will still vote for Hillary :-)

25

u/lordofthebanZ avatar
lordofthebanZ

•

10y ago

What did you do to get banned? Lol

10

u/TheBeefClick avatar
TheBeefClick

•

10y ago

Well to be fair, reddit is very anti hillary. Wouldnt it make sense to try and get a few voters from reddit?

6

[deleted]

•

9y ago

Oh how times have changed. The \$6MM spent on astroturfing did quite a number here

12

1 more reply

5 more replies

u/TheAmazingSkeptic avatar
TheAmazingSkeptic

•

9y ago

Sad.

3

Psydonk

•

9y ago

Israeli shills are ubiquitous on r/worldnews. It's actually fascinating to watch really. You see posts that are critical of Israel to begin with, have like +30 upvotes, then you come back several hours later, any post critical of Israel has -500 downvotes while anything that plays to Israel's narrative is upvoted by the hundreds if not thousands.

On r/politics, astroturfers from both sides are all over the place. It's actually interesting to watch the Trump side's strategy, is to constantly post negative articles about Clinton, so people distrust her. It's on a board that actually leans center-left, you get top voted articles from Briebart and other far-right sources.

Mostly though, I see Astroturfers on news website comment sections and specialized boards. For example, here in Australia, one of our major forums is Whirlpool, which is just swimming in such blatant astrotufers I wonder how people continue to fall for their bait when they literally post like they are copy-pasting from a manual. Comment sections are always fun to watch astroturfers all use the same "key words" and "key statements" over and over again, then, by the end of the week, the Politicial group they are shilling for, starts to use those same key words.

12

1 more reply

u/Chicken1337 avatar
Chicken1337

•

10y ago

Jesus. Never realized it was this widespread.

9

u/SUCH_AS_SEALS avatar

SUCH_AS_SEALS

•

9y ago

Thank you so much for this. Just found this thread (and sub) and am awash with thoughts and emotions. You've confirmed what I've known deep down for a while now but had no evidence of. Perhaps I wasn't looking hard enough, because it's clearly there. A lot of it. I wasn't naive enough to think this wasn't happening but this... this is... vilely rampant.

I suppose being forewarned is the first step to being forearmed but I'm still reeling with what to do with this knowledge.

9

NutritionResearch

OP

•

9y ago

Don't be hard on yourself. Actually, this information is not really easy to find. It is hidden because most people don't know the right words to search. I'm not sure if that is deliberate or not, but it wouldn't surprise me if it was. If you google "shills" or "astroturfer," most of the stuff in this thread will never be seen.

Words that you have to plug into google:

Political Bots

Reputation Management

Online Marketing or online native advertising

Social Media management or manipulation

Paid Trolls

Paid comments

Here's the thing about "reputation management": This includes manipulating the search ranking of a google search. The people who are involved in this shadowy world of semi legal and illegal online marketing know tricks to pushing certain results to the 3rd or 4th page of a google search. Not only do you have to know the correct words to search for, you might not find it until you dig deep enough. I am also certain that I haven't found everything. This post took me a very long time to put together.

Anyway, thanks for the message. I could use some help spreading this knowledge around if you get the chance. I've been spreading this stuff for years over multiple Reddit accounts and I still get people who are surprised.

12

1 more reply

u/gustoreddit51 avatar

gustoreddit51

•

10y ago

"Freedom of speech and its democratic corollary, a free press, have tacitly expanded our Bill of Rights to include the right of persuasion. This development

was an inevitable result of the expansion of the media of free speech and persuasion, defined in other articles in this volume. All these media provide open doors to the public mind. Any one of us through these media may influence the attitudes and actions of our fellow citizens." - Edward Bernays in "The Engineering of Consent" (1947).

7
d3fi4nt

•
10y ago
With regards to HRC/CTR astroturfing ops, it's worth noting that CGI partner Palantir (along with Berico and HB Gary) developed a "Persona Management System" in the past designed to allow single operators to bulk manage social media accounts, etc. - May be worth investigating too.

7
u/sper_jsh avatar
sper_jsh

•
10y ago
This is great! Good work!

4
[deleted]

•
10y ago
I think I am encountering hedge fund / financial shills in /the_donald...

3
[deleted]

•
9y ago
u/elpajarito7 avatar
elpajarito7
•
10y ago
Fantastic write-up. How do you go about archiving this? I'd like to see a website that pertains to shills and astroturfing specifically, or something of the sort.

14
[deleted]
•
10y ago
10/10 thread

2
[deleted]

•
10y ago
Fantastic thread.

When people talk about the "good ol days" of media before the internet, I think, the main thing that was different is that we didnt have threads like this.

2
New to Reddit?
Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number
By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you

understand the Privacy Policy.
More posts you may like
Community Info Section
r/shills
Join
/r/Shills
Exposing corporate and government shills on social media
Public
Top Posts
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of May 21, 2016
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of May 2016
Reddit
reReddit: Top posts of 2016
Reddit Rules
Privacy Policy
User Agreement
Your Privacy Choices
Accessibility
Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content
Astroturfing Information Megathread- revision 8 : r/shills

Open menu

r/shills
Search in r/shills
Log In

Expand user menu

Back
Go to shills
r/shills
•
10y ago
NutritionResearch

Astroturfing Information Megathread- revision 8
Sorry, this post was removed by Reddit's filters.
681

•
76
Comments Section
[deleted]

•
10y ago
Just thought I'd contribute to this thread

152
NutritionResearch
OP

•
10y ago
I assume that a lot of shills are losing their jobs to bots, as most of us are.
With that being the case, many of them will probably come out and release some
details about their jobs.

Here is a list of shill confessions:

"Once we isolate key people, we look for people we know are in their upstream --
people that they read posts from, but who themselves are less influential. We
then either start flame wars with bots to derail the conversations that are

influencing influential people, or else send off specific tasks for sockpuppets (changing this wording of an idea here; cause an ideological split there; etc)."

What I learned selling my Reddit accounts

Confession of Hillary Shill from /r/SandersForPresident

Shill whistleblower, claims to have derailed discussions and called people anti-semites, ruined reputations of users by searching their account history, amongst other things.

Fracking shill whistleblower spills the beans on Fracking Internet PR

/r/netsec talks about gaming reddit via sockpuppets and how online discourse is (easily) manipulated.

Whistleblower and subsequent investigation: Paid trolls on /r/Bitcoin

Reddit user comes clean about being paid to chat on Reddit. They work to promote a politician, although they don't specify which one. (Admins claim this wasn't a shill)

Screenshot of post since it was removed.

I'm not certain that all of these are legit confessions, which is why I chose to omit them from the above post, but some of these are very interesting.

Edit:

Alleged paid shill leaks details of organization and actions.

88

u/apistograma avatar

apistograma

•

9y ago

Oh, god. I'm sure I was arguing with one person in a similar position to the one in your screenshot some weeks ago in a youtube video about GMOs.

I'm not even completely against GMOs, I was mainly arguing that people should be aware of the problems that the current loose regulation in the US and EU could bring long-term. I understand that every people has it's own opinion, and most of them were nice and wanted to add to the discussion, including some of the most adamant supporters of GMOs.

But there was one dude that was making me mad. He just spend all the time twisting my points, defending the industry (even when I didn't attacked any firm in particular), and derailing all my topics. He followed most of the points you mentioned, included the one about conspiracy theories (when he asked me if I believed in the lunar landing lol).

I didn't know exactly why, but that commenter left me with a very uncomfortable feeling that he wasn't being honest, like when you see a politician talking in an interview. Now I'm pretty sure why. Thank you, you're doing a very nice service to everyone on the internet.

16

4 more replies

[deleted]

•

10y ago

Great info man, thank you and saved.

11

2 more replies

2 more replies

u/DirectImageLinkBot avatar

DirectImageLinkBot

•

10y ago

Here is a direct link to your image for the benefit of mobile users

[^Feedback](#) | [Already a direct ^link?](#) | [Why do I ^exist?](#) | [^Source](#)

8

u/Lord_Draconia avatar

Lord_Draconia

•

9y ago

I actually feel bad for all the shills and hope they find better jobs.

6

3 more replies

u/comrade-jim avatar

comrade-jim

•

10y ago

Posting one of my old comments:

People are in denial that they're being manipulated...

Operation Earnest Voice is an astroturfing campaign by the US government. The aim of the initiative is to use sockpuppets to spread pro-American propaganda on social networking sites.

The US government signed a \$2.8 million contract with the Ntrepid web-security company to develop a specialized software, allowing agents of the government to post propaganda on "foreign-language websites", but recently the law preventing them from using this in America was repealed, allowing them to spread pro-American propaganda even on American media.

Main characteristics of the software, as stated in the software development request, are:

50 user "operator" licenses, 10 sockpuppets controllable by each user.

Sockpuppets are to be "replete with background, history, supporting details, and cyber presences that are technically, culturally and geographically consistent". Sockpuppets are to "be able to appear to originate in nearly any part of the world."

A special secure VPN, allowing sockpuppets to appear to be posting from "randomly selected IP addresses," in order to "hide the existence of the operation."

50 static IP addresses to enable government agencies to "manage their persistent online personas," with identities of government and enterprise organizations protected which will allow for different state agents to use the same sockpuppet, and easily switch between different sockpuppets to "look like ordinary users as opposed to one organization."

9 private servers, "based on the geographic area of operations the customer is operating within and which allow a customer's online persona(s) to appear to

originate from." These servers should use commercial hosting centers around the world.

Virtual machine environments, deleted after each session termination, to avoid interaction with "any virus, worm, or malicious software."

The US also operates in conjunction with the UK to collect and share intelligence data, and the GCHQ has their own internet shilling program.

There is not enough evidence to say without a doubt that the US government manipulates American social media, but we can say without a doubt that they do have sophisticated software for the purpose of spreading propaganda, they do manipulate social media, there are no longer propaganda laws preventing them from doing so in America, and multiple world governments have these programs in place (including but not limited to: Russia, China, Israel, and the UK.)

You can keep telling your self the US government would never manipulate social media, or violate the 4th amendment, or collect data en masse, or you can wake up and accept that this is the world we live in and ignoring it will never solve the problem.

38

NutritionResearch

OP

•

10y ago

Wired wrote about some disturbing stuff in 2008.

Wired: Air Force Releases 'Counter-Blog' Marching Orders

In that article, they cite this:

<http://www.webinknow.com/2008/12/the-us-air-force-armed-with-social-media.html>

Capt. Faggard and his Air Force Emerging Technology team is responsible for developing strategy, policy and plans for an ever-changing communication landscape for communicators worldwide. What was most interesting is that with Capt. Faggard leading the way, the Air Force employs 330,000 communicators! Their mission is to use current and developing Web 2.0 applications as a way to actively engage conversations between Airmen and the general public. Yes, that's right, the goal of the program is that every single Airman is an on-line communicator.

Besides Twitter, Capt. Faggard writes The Official Blog of the U.S. Air Force; has pages on YouTube, MySpace and Facebook; helps publicize a Second Life area called Huffman Prairie; contributes to iReport (user name USAFPA); and is on Friendfeed, Digg, Delicious, Slashdot, Newsvine, Reddit. There's Air Force widgets. And there's even a video mashup contest for high schools to show school spirit sponsored by the Air Force.

It's not just the Air Force. Several months ago I led a training session organized by SSgt Alexis Mulero, Public Affairs Chief for the communicators in the 1st Marine Corps Recruiting District. Since most teenagers and young adults spend lots of time on Facebook, YouTube, and other social media sites, a major challenge in recruiting young people into the Marines is reaching them online. As a result of a focus on social media, SSgt Mulero says that his team has greatly increased the positive exposure of the Corps across the Northeastern U.S.

6

1 more reply

u/BANMEIKEEPCOMINGBACK avatar

BANMEIKEEPCOMINGBACK

•

10y ago

And people will still vote for Hillary :-)

25

u/lordofthebanZ avatar

lordofthebanZ

•

10y ago

What did you do to get banned? Lol

10

u/TheBeefClick avatar

TheBeefClick

•

10y ago

Well to be fair, reddit is very anti hillary. Wouldnt it make sense to try and get a few voters from reddit?

6

[deleted]

•

9y ago

Oh how times have changed. The \$6MM spent on astroturfing did quite a number here

12

1 more reply

5 more replies

u/TheAmazingSkeptic avatar

TheAmazingSkeptic

•

9y ago

Sad.

3

Psydonk

•

9y ago

Israeli shills are ubiquitous on r/worldnews. It's actually fascinating to watch really. You see posts that are critical of Israel to begin with, have like +30 upvotes, then you come back several hours later, any post critical of Israel has -500 downvotes while anything that plays to Israel's narrative is upvoted by the hundreds if not thousands.

On r/politics, astroturfers from both sides are all over the place. It's actually interesting to watch the Trump side's strategy, is to constantly post negative articles about Clinton, so people distrust her. It's on a board that actually leans center-left, you get top voted articles from Briebart and other far-right sources.

Mostly though, I see Astroturfers on news website comment sections and specialized boards. For example, here in Australia, one of our major forums is Whirlpool, which is just swimming in such blatant astrotufers I wonder how people continue to fall for their bait when they literally post like they are copy-pasting from a manual. Comment sections are always fun to watch astroturfers all use the same "key words" and "key statements" over and over again, then, by the end of the week, the Politicial group they are shilling for, starts to use those same key words.

12

1 more reply
u/Chicken1337 avatar
Chicken1337

•

10y ago
Jesus. Never realized it was this widespread.

9
u/SUCH_AS_SEALS avatar
SUCH_AS_SEALS

•

9y ago
Thank you so much for this. Just found this thread (and sub) and am awash with thoughts and emotions. You've confirmed what I've known deep down for a while now but had no evidence of. Perhaps I wasn't looking hard enough, because it's clearly there. A lot of it. I wasn't naive enough to think this wasn't happening but this... this is... vilely rampant.

I suppose being forewarned is the first step to being forearmed but I'm still reeling with what to do with this knowledge.

9
NutritionResearch
OP

•

9y ago
Don't be hard on yourself. Actually, this information is not really easy to find. It is hidden because most people don't know the right words to search. I'm not sure if that is deliberate or not, but it wouldn't surprise me if it was. If you google "shills" or "astroturfer," most of the stuff in this thread will never be seen.

Words that you have to plug into google:

Political Bots

Reputation Management

Online Marketing or online native advertising

Social Media management or manipulation

Paid Trolls

Paid comments

Here's the thing about "reputation management": This includes manipulating the search ranking of a google search. The people who are involved in this shadowy world of semi legal and illegal online marketing know tricks to pushing certain results to the 3rd or 4th page of a google search. Not only do you have to know the correct words to search for, you might not find it until you dig deep enough. I am also certain that I haven't found everything. This post took me a very long time to put together.

Anyway, thanks for the message. I could use some help spreading this knowledge around if you get the chance. I've been spreading this stuff for years over multiple Reddit accounts and I still get people who are surprised.

12

1 more reply
u/gustoreddit51 avatar
gustoreddit51

•

10y ago

"Freedom of speech and its democratic corollary, a free press, have tacitly expanded our Bill of Rights to include the right of persuasion. This development was an inevitable result of the expansion of the media of free speech and persuasion, defined in other articles in this volume. All these media provide open doors to the public mind. Any one of us through these media may influence the attitudes and actions of our fellow citizens." - Edward Bernays in "The Engineering of Consent" (1947).

7

d3fi4nt

•

10y ago

With regards to HRC/CTR astroturfing ops, it's worth noting that CGI partner Palantir (along with Berico and HB Gary) developed a "Persona Management System" in the past designed to allow single operators to bulk manage social media accounts, etc. - May be worth investigating too.

7

u/sper_jsh avatar
sper_jsh

•

10y ago

This is great! Good work!

4

[deleted]

•

10y ago

I think I am encountering hedge fund / financial shills in /the_donald...

3

[deleted]

•

9y ago

u/elpajarito7 avatar
elpajarito7

•

10y ago

Fantastic write-up. How do you go about archiving this? I'd like to see a website that pertains to shills and astroturfing specifically, or something of the sort.

14

[deleted]

•

10y ago

10/10 thread

2

[deleted]

•

10y ago

Fantastic thread.

When people talk about the "good ol days" of media before the internet, I think, the main thing that was different is that we didnt have threads like this.

2
u/doppleprophet avatar
doppleprophet
•
9y ago
tagged for later reference

2
[deleted]
•
9y ago
[deleted]
•
9y ago
u/ShelloilNigeria avatar
ShelloilNigeria
•
3y ago
Just commenting to save this later and keep it active.

2
Daytwah
•
9y ago
Here's a shill confession I had saved a year ago:
https://www.reddit.com/r/worldnews/comments/31wo57/the_chevron_tapes_video_shows_oil_giant_allegedly/cq5uhse

2
[deleted]
•
9y ago
https://www.reddit.com/r/The_Donald/comments/564qvd/so_apparently_people_found_undisclosed_public/

1
BigPharmaSucks
•
4y ago
This is a very important thread.

1
3risX
•
4y ago
I wonder if it's possible to buy youtube stream donators, similar to buying instagram followers. Something I've noticed for a while now is that mid-sized streamers will get at least one \$100+ donation per stream from an account with no comment or participation in chat. I'd guess the reason for doing so would be to seem more relevant than one actually is to increase the likelihood of followers donating more and increasing subs, but this could just be in my head. Can anyone confirm? I haven't looked into this much but am planning to soon.

1
MarshalMammy
•
3y ago
I told people they use brainwashing in social media buy nobody believed me

1
ss8780953
•

3y ago

➤ \$MARVIN 🐼 ➤ Want to survive in the world of crypto? Invest in \$MARVIN and hone your skills with the Survivor game. ➤ @Marvin_inu

GameFi #NFT #Marvininu #305X \$dogai 🌻

1

u/itsdefsarcasm avatar
itsdefsarcasm

•

3y ago

anybody else show the post removed?

1

melegie

•

1y ago

hey, is there a place where i can read this? seems like it was deleted.

1

Tralliz

•

6mo ago

Bankai

1

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Community Info Section

r/shills

Join

/r/Shills

Exposing corporate and government shills on social media

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of May 21, 2016

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of May 2016

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2016

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

archive.today

webpage capture

Saved from

[https://www.reddit.com/r/explainlikeimfive/comments/3axe5k/](https://www.reddit.com/r/explainlikeimfive/comments/3axe5k/eli5_how_can_car_dealerships_on_radio_claim/csh9i5k)

[eli5_how_can_car_dealerships_on_radio_claim/csh9i5k](https://www.reddit.com/r/explainlikeimfive/comments/3axe5k/eli5_how_can_car_dealerships_on_radio_claim/csh9i5k)

no other snapshots from this url

2 Jul 2015 04:36:30 UTC

All snapshots from host www.reddit.com

WebpageScreenshot

sharedownload .zipreport bug or abuseBuy me a coffee

jump to content

my subreddits

front-all-random | gadgets-sports-gaming-pics-worldnews-videos-AskReddit-aww-Music-funny-news-movies-books-europe-history-food-philosophy-television-Jokes-Art-DIY-space-Documentaries-Fitness-askscience-nottheonion-todayilearned-personalfinance-gifs-listentothis-IAMa-TwoXChromosomes-creepy-nosleep-GetMotivated-WritingPrompts-LifeProTips-Bundesliga-EarthPorn-explainlikeimfive-Showerthoughts-Futurology-photoshopbattles-mildlyinteresting-dataisbeautiful-tifu-OldSchoolCool-UpliftingNews-InternetIsBeautiful-de_IAMa-science

explainlikeimfive explainlikeimfive

comments

related

want to join? sign in or create an account in seconds|English

search

this post was submitted on 24 Jun 2015

725 points (90% upvoted)

shortlink:

<http://redd.it/3axe5k>

username

password

remember mereset passwordlogin

unsubscribe

5,599,413 readers

3,781 online

request an explanationplease search first

E is for explain.

This is for concepts you'd like to understand better; not for simple one word answers, walkthroughs, or personal problems.

LI5 means friendly, simplified and layman-accessible explanations.

Not responses aimed at literal five year olds (which can be patronizing).

Please ensure that it does not belong here, and include a [permalink](#).report spam post or comment

important information

- Read the rules before commenting or submitting.

- Search before submitting with keywords from your topic. The search box is in the upper right corner of the subreddit.

- Please be neutral in your explanations, and note your personal bias in controversial topics.

- Direct replies to the original post (aka "top-level comments") are for serious responses only. Jokes, anecdotes, and low effort explanations, are not permitted and subject to removal.

- Don't post just to express an opinion or argue a point of view.

- After receiving an adequate explanation, OP should mark the post Explained. Explained posts are still open to discussion!

- ELI5 isn't a guessing game; if you aren't confident in your explanation, please don't speculate.

Have an idea to improve ELI5? [Click here!](#)

explained unexplained reset

created by [bossgalagaa](#) community for 3 years

discuss this ad on reddit

message the moderators

MODERATORS

[bossgalaga](#)

[anonymous123421](#)

[sje46](#)

[Mason11987](#)

[kouhoutek](#)

[SecureThruObscure](#)

LoveOfProfit

C47man

AutoModerator

...and 18 more »

discussions in /r/explainlikeimfive

<>X

144 points · 675 comments

ELI5:Why do deli meats like turkey and roast beef taste so much different when thickly sliced vs. thinly sliced?

725

ExplainedELI5: How can car dealerships on radio claim they'll accept payment from people with bad/no credit? Doesn't this destroy the idea altogether?

submitted 7 days ago by 24FrameDaVinci

452 commentsshare

sorted by: best

you are viewing a single comment's thread.

view the rest of the comments →

[-]CaptainObviousMC 5 points 7 days ago

I can't name names for privacy reasons.

The gist of what I do is teach computers to do sentiment analysis on social media posts that are of interest to clients, tag them based on their various properties (author, sentiments, keywords, etc), and add them to a giant graph of all social media posts we're interested in, who else has retweeted them or the link, who responded to them, etc. We use this to estimate exposure numbers and influence, and try to isolate the key people in a social graph which are causing an opinion to form. (Ideally, on the order of minutes or hours instead of days or weeks.)

Once we isolate key people, we look for people we know are in their upstream -- people that they read posts from, but who themselves are less influential. (This uses the same social media graph built before.) We then either start flame wars with bots to derail the conversations that are influencing influential people (think nonsense reddit posts about conspiracies that sound like Markov chains of nonsense other people have said), or else send off specific tasks for sockpuppets (changing this wording of an idea here; cause an ideological split there; etc).

The goal is to keep opinions we don't want fragmented and from coalescing in to a single voice for long enough that the memes we do want can, at which points they've gotten a head start on going viral and tend to capture a larger-than-otherwise share of media attention.

(All of the stuff above is basically the "standard" for online PR (usually farmed out to an LLC with a generic name working for the marketing firm contracted by the big firm; deniability is a word frequently said), once you're above a certain size.)

Careful analysis of online communities (or reading the papers where they got caught) would tell you that various nations are using similar technologies against their citizens and other nations. It's not entirely about business that China is concerned with building a domestic social network, and DARPA runs extensive research programs on social graph analysis and influence, on behalf of the Pentagon.

permalinkembedparent

[-]majinspy 4 points 7 days ago

I'm rarely the idealistic wide eyed type....but isn't what you do sort of.....unmitigated evil?

permalinkembedparent

[-]CaptainObviousMC 3 points 7 days ago*

I wouldn't call it immoral, but I certainly would call it amoral.

The simple truth is I sold out because I spent my years from youth to adulthood watching my country slowly have an expanding military presence actively directed against the citizens as a whole, continuously, coupled with people being completely unwilling to listen to anyone talk about the issues it was causing or to take seriously that the rise of machines -- both computers and robots -- was have an effect on society that was fundamentally changing how things operated. Sure it was more of the same, but the machines were making that 'more' a little bigger each time. They were all so smart and I was just being overly worried

about the kinds of social graphs that Facebook built, you see.

So I just got tired and decided that because no one was interested in the solutions, I was at least going to make money on the problem and live a comfortable life until they either changed their minds or I died. The technology I work on is specifically things to exploit the lack of social focus in society -- picking one movie as the Summer Blockbuster over the other -- and less able to work on things like redefining what 'liberty' means. Even I consider those guys somewhat questionable.

If you're really upset, the solutions are straightforward, relatively inexpensive (~\$10-100mil), it's just that people aren't upset enough that 10% of the country is even willing to pay \$1 to towards the solution. Not really. They're comfortably immersed in Xboxes, McDonalds, and various creature comforts. They're okay that maybe I got paid \$1 last month because they ate more McDonalds than Burger King, and that maybe it's because I tricked them in to it -- it just doesn't matter in their lives. Does the reason you picked McDonalds over Burger King need to be anything more than just you talked about one more recently than the other? Does it really matter?

So, let me ask you this: how many times in the last... let's say decade did you donate when one of your nerdy friends was really upset about some issue with technology you only half understood? and if you didn't help then, why are you so surprised he eventually got worn out of trying to fix things? and are you really upset that Burger King cares enough about your business that they've devoted a computer core somewhere just to analyzing what would convince you to buy a burger? or are you just surprised they can?

Note: None of the companies or products mentioned are companies I've worked for or with. They're simply recognizable brands that everyone accepts try to trick them with marketing, standing in for other brands.

permalinkembedparent

[~]majinspy 3 points 7 days ago

It's the capability. I try to be aware of marketing and the little psych games they play.

This reminds me of Nickelback hatred. Suddenly it was cool to hate them. It was like a switch had been turned on. Even if someone liked Nickelback they would put them in homes because the understanding was there. I try to be extremely skeptical but the anonymity of the internet makes it impossible to know if I'm talking to someone or merely one of the heads of a hydra.

permalinkembedparent

[~]CaptainObviousMC 1 point 7 days ago

the anonymity of the internet makes it impossible to know if I'm talking to someone or merely one of the heads of a hydra

Do you really believe this is so clear cut in real life?

How many of your friends that work for big corporations, and seem to oddly favor their industry on certain topics? Are they part of the hydra?

Do they become part of the hydra when the people organizing news shows decided that those people are the ones we want to hear from, and the other ones aren't?

If there's one thing that's obvious from the news: it's much easier to get a fake consensus on the opinion you want when you just shout it really loudly on behalf of people who genuinely believe that for whatever odd reason they happen to. People like you only see the genuine belief of the person talking on the show, and that they're not marketing. But a genuine person is on the news, so their view must be important! That you're exposed to that genuine belief on that show rather than a slightly different genuine belief had been carefully selected, and the talking heads are essentially both strawmen meant to frame the debate a certain way, and it doesn't matter which of them does a better job of explaining their silly position -- just that you accept the framing of the debate. (How could you not? BOTH sides are represented!)

I think you're being very naive if you think what I do is anything else than an amplification of the same old game, and not by as much as you seem to think.

There was always false framing of debates to shift the ideological window, astroturfing, ideological wedges, etc etc. We just do it with computers now, so it's slightly cheaper.

permalinkembedparent

[~]majinspy 2 points 7 days ago

No it isn't the same. The person on TV still has to get a check. I could turn

that part of my brain on. I understand, and understood, everything you are saying. At the risk of sounding like every rube in history, those things tend to not work on me. I work in the trucking industry and, unsurprisingly, we keep America moving! Rah rah, I get it.

What was so shocking was how simple, powerful, and unexpected your "attack" is. It's one thing to watch a debate be framed between two poles that average out to a desired median, it's another to sabotage someone's conversation that, while not heavily trafficked, directly influences those whose opinions are heavily trafficked.

Your other examples are hydras, yes...but I see them coming. I can resist that which I know has money behind it. Trying to mentally fight against a potential legion of invisible astroturf opinion shapers is like trying to use karate to defeat tear gas.

permalinkembedparent

[-]CaptainObviousMC 2 points 6 days ago

Welcome to the future.

I suggest crowd sourcing hiring someone like me to write an app that you can pay \$5/mo to run on Digital Ocean or Amazon and do online things of that nature for you.

Even if you ignore people like me, the future simply has too much input to not filter with machines -- or rather, if you don't, you'll always be behind people that do. Twitter, even ignoring any bots or other influence, is still a celebrity shouting match for who gets to have the dominant opinion in the blog cycle. (My job is just to nudge the results one way or the other, but it's still fundamentally a shouting match -- I'm just renting megaphones.)

To get a useful result of Twitter, what you want is a slice showing you the distribution of opinions (statistics, yay!) as well as showing you the 100 most unique which contain a particular keyword or something of that nature. Instead what people are often shown -- and what unfortunately becomes the basis of the news cycle -- is just the single (or say dozen) most popular posts... which are virtually useless, unless you just want to hear about if your favorite website is offline.

I think the real shame is that people have simply lagged to adapt to how powerful computers are, and don't run these kinds of software themselves. I also think that will change in 5-10 years, as Milenials grow up, and that once consumers are used to the idea that you really need a service working for you to filter out all the crap, a lot of what I do will be a useless technology.

P.S. If anyone is looking for those "If you just do one thing..." tips, I suggest only making important decisions by handwriting letters to friends, and mailing them by USPS. Yes, this takes time and is cumbersome. That's not accidental. The "easy" things often exploit short-circuit reasoning in your brain, which is more susceptible to trickery. Focusing on spending time producing a finished product, external to yourself, which is meant to convince another person and only making on exchange of ideas a week with the other party (3 days each way with mail delay), forces you to process the thoughts differently, and take less shortcuts because of the investment you're putting in.

permalinkembedparent

[-]Astro_Turfin 1 point 6 days ago*

I suggest only making important decisions by handwriting letters to friends, and mailing them by USPS.

Also, drive a manual transmission car ;)

I really appreciate your above postings. This was linked to me from somewhere else. It's rare to find someone as intellectually gifted as yourself being so forthright on a shit-factory platform like reddit.

I still think your occupation is completely and irreparably deplorable, as you do engage in the widespread manipulation of thought and public opinion, effectively stifling the human condition and perverting the human experience, but I understand why you do it and I understand the justifications for it. I also am not going to be so naive as to say "DONT DO IT" because obviously the technology exists and therefore will be pursued, especially given the covert nature in which these type of actions can be accomplished. I know I don't need to tell you that it's happening everywhere, all the time, with PR firms working for governments, companies, interest groups, politicians, ad infinitum.

It probably pays really well.

permalinkembedparent

[–]CaptainObviousMC 2 points 5 days ago

Out of curiosity, how much would you actually pay for someone to do, not the PR part, but the data analysis and synthesis part? (Assuming you don't regard simply having computers read lots of things and synthesize down the data as evil.)

Partly, what I do is leveraging the fact that the corporation can see the world more clearly than you can, and leverage your short-sight range and blurry vision.

Obviously, individuals can't afford what I do -- either the servers or the technical staff. But thousands or tens of thousands could, for probably less than the individuals spend on coffee, or beer, or energy drinks a week (if not a day). In fact, having a news digest that scanned all of the news and computed a digest for you from it would be a relatively straight forward application and moderate out a lot of the PR, as competing groups would have infiltrated different sources (to varying extents). (There are similar other solutions to other problems.)

I still think your occupation is completely and irreparably deplorable, as you do engage in the widespread manipulation of thought and public opinion, effectively stifling the human condition and perverting the human experience. Here, the two threads of what I'm about to say converge: people don't care. They get really preachy about it, but when you look at how they act, from who they choose as social group leaders to politicians, what they actually want is paternal manipulation of their opinions from people they instinctively feel comfortable with and to not have to think too hard while enjoying creature comforts.

I think you're feeling mad about what I do, but it's really the answer to what people ask for with their dollars: being gently guided in to more and more creature comforts for less and less of their efforts, and ceding management control in exchange. Everything I do would be trivially defeated if people proactively took responsibility for themselves and engaged in self-management. Instead, they offload their thinking to the cloud, take easy, feel good soundbite opinions, and just sort of cavort around enjoying an easy life.

That is, I think people are genuinely happy with what I do and the arrangement we've come to in society, and simply pretend to be offended because they don't like the sight of human gluttony and they know it's the "right" social position to take.

So I guess the question is, your post is really preachy, but do you think most people would pay two lattes a month to change from mindless self-indulgence to thoughtful self-direction?

If not, why are you mad at me for giving them what they want?

I can prove that virtually everyone ends up feeling happier from hearing a feel good soundbite as a result of what I do, and goes about their life both feeling they've done something and happier. They weren't actually interested in doing something for real, they are leaving that up to someone else.

Someone like my employers.

permalinkembedparent

[–]Astro_Turfin 2 points 5 days ago*

Obviously, individuals can't afford what I do -- either the servers or the technical staff. But thousands or tens of thousands could, for probably less than the individuals spend on coffee, or beer, or energy drinks a week (if not a day). In fact, having a news digest that scanned all of the news and computed a digest for you from it would be a relatively straight forward application and moderate out a lot of the PR, as competing groups would have infiltrated different sources (to varying extents). (There are similar other solutions to other problems.)

You're absolutely right, and I think that there's a great opportunity for such a service to thrive. Basically that's a market niche waiting to be filled by someone with the time, skill, and leveraged resources. I understand your point about the synthesis and analysis of data, and by no means am I implicating that the automation of these processes is inherently problematic / evil / draconian / whatever.

Here, the two threads of what I'm about to say converge: people don't care. They

get really preachy about it, but when you look at how they act, from who they choose as social group leaders to politicians, what they actually want is paternal manipulation of their opinions from people they instinctively feel comfortable with and to not have to think too hard while enjoying creature comforts.

Unfortunately, again, you're completely spot on. People don't give a shit. At least, the vast, sweeping majority of people don't give any kind of a shit, and would prefer a curated echo-chamber garden to the wilderness of the unfettered truth. We as a culture claim to strive toward truth, but as you mention we are really bound toward creature comforts and basal human drives more than we actually crave truth. As long as the lights are on, food is in stock and Netflix servers are up, everybody's happy.

That is, I think people are genuinely happy with what I do and the arrangement we've come to in society, and simply pretend to be offended because they don't like the sight of human gluttony and they know it's the "right" social position to take.

You're right. Most people are completely happy with what you do and don't give it a second thought. These people are also largely a product of what has been an ongoing campaign to de-incentivize critical thought and a larger trend of the celebration of apathy and ignorance over reason and uncomfortable truths.

I wrote a piece elsewhere on the web at some point where I detailed my research about DPR and shill behavior etc. It seems from what I could gather (facebook comment sections, Disqus boards etc) that ultimately truth itself isn't important to the masses. In fact, you can pretty much get away with saying whatever lies you want provided it's worded in such a way that it evokes an emotional response consistent with the audience's pre-existing worldview, that is placed in the correct place. If you can hijack the top comment on a post, you will reach an enormous audience who is unlikely to read past that top comment. If someone refutes your false claim further down in the post chain, it ultimately ends up a moot rebuttal because most people won't even read that far. So I guess the question is, your post is really preachy, but do you think most people would pay two lattes a month to change from mindless self-indulgence to thoughtful self-direction?

Maybe not most people. Unfortunately most aren't even aware that such a pattern of manipulation exists, much less on such a wide scale. But many people (especially the digital natives) would be much more interested in a legitimate system backed by the transparency of open architecture regarding exactly how that would be accomplished.

I really should stress that I'm not "mad at you" or anything like that. I get it. I've experimented with the methods myself in various forms. It's a very interesting dynamic to research specifically regarding the psychological behavior of individuals online and how that correlates to real-world decision making.

You seem well-positioned to provide such a service as you speak of to filter DPR from feeds / web services, given the incentive / funding etc, but I feel as though any effort toward such a service would be met with overt hostility through many channels of those who do actually run DPR on major web content providers. That being said, I really must again reiterate that I appreciate your brevity and willingness to engage in discourse about this.

Thank you for your reasoned responses.

Edit: I inadvertently ignored your initial question. I'd probably pay 10 per month for an anti PR service.

[permalinkembedparent](#)

continue this thread

[–]rosellem 2 points 7 days ago

Wow, thank you for the detailed response. That is awesome (the post, not what's being done, that sucks).

[permalinkembedparent](#)

[–]THANKS-FOR-THE-GOLD 1 point 7 days ago

I wish it was a sociopath, it sounds like lots of fun.

[permalinkembedparent](#)

[–]CaptainObviousMC 1 point 7 days ago

Do you think everyone on the data team at Facebook is a sociopath?

I don't work at Facebook; however, what do you think promoted posts, the

selection of posts to show in your timeline, etc are, if not exactly the same as what I do? Remember, not long ago, Facebook got caught experimenting on humans using their website, intentionally trying to make their users happy or sad with their Timeline post selection algorithm.

The banality of evil is that the vast majority of the team of people researching and developing this product are all perfectly normal people who go home to their loving families, have close relationships, etc etc, and simply don't view the people they're impacting as people, but instead, numbers. (This is similar to many other fields, and marketing in general.)

The frightening part of what I see happen is not that sociopaths run technology, but rather, that technology enables normal people to distance other people in to being just data values, and thus enabling them to take actions they otherwise wouldn't.

I think that there is an institutional problem with dehumanizing and decontextualizing data in technology.

permalinkembedparent

[–]Polusplanchnos 1 point 5 days ago

You might get a kick out of reading Hannah Arendt's The Human Condition if you're already seeing the right way of grasping what banality of evil means. Not a lot get the point as you do, but then you're living within the technical application of evolving bureaucracy.

permalinkembedparent

about

blog

about

values

team

source code

advertise

jobs

help

site rules

FAQ

wiki

reddiquette

transparency

contact us

apps & tools

Alien Blue iOS app

reddit AMA app

mobile beta

buttons

<3

reddit gold

reddit store

redditgifts

reddit.tv

radio reddit

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement and Privacy Policy {Genitive}. © 2015 reddit inc. All rights reserved.

REDDIT and the ALIEN Logo are registered trademarks of reddit inc.

π

0%

10%

20%

30%

40%

50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

100%

Search

Write

Sign up

Sign in

What I learned selling my Reddit accounts

Rob

Rob

Follow

6 min read

.

Apr 8, 2016

788

25

NOTE: I wrote the original draft of this story in January 2016. I wasn't sure if I was going to publish it, but decided to today.

Background.

I started using Reddit 5 years ago. When I created my first Reddit account, I made the mistake of reusing a username that many of my real life friends and colleagues would be able to associate with me. In theory this was fine, but it created a self imposed limitation to the type of content I would share, what subreddits I would post to, etc. In early 2015 a post I made of a friends photograph (I had her permission) went viral and was the basis of everything from an animal rescue campaign to endless Buzzfeed lists.

At that point many of my friends and acquaintances became aware of my Reddit activity and started adding me as a friend on the site, sending me PM's, etc. I decided it was time to anonymize myself so I created a new account. Karma was never something that interested me, and the few subreddits that I had created/moderated weren't important to me.

Since I was a long time user, and very active on the site (some days I will visit dozens of times and post and comment almost as frequently) it didn't take me long to reestablish myself in the subreddits I actively participated in.

December 2015.

I realized that I could use a few extra dollars before the holidays and started looking around my house for things to sell. One day I was browsing /r/hailcorporate and saw a post where someone mentioned a website where advertisers can buy established Reddit accounts for marketing purposes.

For those of you who aren't familiar with /r/hailcorporate – it's a place for users to link to posts/comments that appear to be made by shills or "social marketing experts" to promote a brand under the guise of it being normal user

posting original content. Think about when someone posts a bottle of Coke with their name on it – that's the type of thing that will get linked to in /r/hailcorporate as an example of a company subversively advertising on Reddit.

Press enter or click to view image in full size

I wasn't very active in that subreddit, but I did subscribe because I found the concept interesting.

Press enter or click to view image in full size

It occurred to me that I had an inactive, 5+ year old account that had been gilded multiple times, had 20,000+ link karma, 15,000+ comment karma, participated in "events" such as The Button, had a Team Orangered trophy, and was very well established. I started wondering what something like that might be worth.

A quick visit to the Reddit account marketplace (by the way, I won't be disclosing the name) showed similar accounts were selling for around \$250. Right away I knew I was going to sell that account, as well as my "new" 9 month old account, which by this time had about 15,000 link karma and 3,000 comment karma. I won't say it was a difficult decision since I needed the cash, but I did feel a little bad about that fact that I was now part of the very problem /r/hailcorporate had made me aware of.

Get Rob's stories in your inbox
Join Medium for free to get updates from this writer.

Enter your email
Subscribe

I sent an email to the contact address on the site and within minutes received a reply in broken english.

"Yes. Very interested in accounts. Please add my account manager to Skype".

What came next was a series of conversations with a gentleman who seemed to be based out of Malaysia (according to his Skype profile and the odd hours we would talk – sometimes very early in the morning for me, sometimes very late at night).

Want to read this story later? Save it in Journal.

Double checking the time zones Malaysia is probably correct.

First we negotiated a price. The opening offer was \$60 USD for the 5 year old account, \$20 USD for the 9 month old account. I flatly rejected that offer after making him aware that I knew exactly how much these accounts would sell for based on the prices on the site (I estimated a combined value of ~\$375) and countered with \$200. That, of course, was an impossible figure to him so after a little back-and-forth we settled on \$120 USD for both. I still felt like this was a low ball offer, but it's not like I was giving away anything of any tangible value to me so I was OK with it. Plus I'm Canadian and the value of our dollar is quite low right now so it was closer to \$160 CAD.

The next part of the process required a lot of faith on my part – I had to send him the usernames, associated email addresses, and passwords. Since a Reddit account can be recovered within the first 24 hours of an email/password change, I had to wait until after that period expired before he would send me payment via Paypal. I didn't like the way this was playing out, but decided to proceed based on the fact that the accounts were of zero value to me so even if it was a scam I wasn't out anything.

Right away I got an email saying the email/password has been changed for the 5 year old account and we agreed to get in touch again the following day.

True to his word the next day I was contacted via Skype and \$60 was sent to my Paypal account. I asked when the other account would be taken. "Soon" was the reply. It's been 3 weeks and just today the second account had the email/password changed and I received a message via Skype that the remaining \$60 would be sent to my Paypal email address after the 24 hour waiting period.

There is still a chance that the Paypal transactions will be reversed, but I don't believe that will happen. Why not? Because it would have been easier for him to just not send the payment in the first place if he intended to do that. I would have had no recourse after that 24 hour waiting period.

Off topic but I've been regularly checking the older account and whoever has purchased it is terrible at marketing. Posting content to subreddits that aren't related to the post. Comments that make no sense in context. I'm not sure if it's a person or a bot doing the posting, but almost every post has been removed by the moderators of the subreddits they appear in.

In the end I did learn a few things: Shill accounts definitely exist on Reddit, in great numbers if the number of accounts for sale on that particular marketplace is any indication. Reddit accounts do have value to marketing professionals. Reddit as a company appears to be either oblivious to this fact (highly unlikely) or happy to let marketers buy and sell these accounts on an open market. The site I used was linked to on Reddit remember.

The broker claims to have transferred 105 accounts in a single day
I just wanted to put this story out there for those of you who are curious about where these accounts come from. In the past I'd wondered if buying and selling online accounts (not just on reddit) was really a thing and now I can say that it definitely is.



Save this story in Journal.



Wake up every Sunday morning to the week's most noteworthy stories in Tech waiting in your inbox. Read the Noteworthy in Tech newsletter.

Social Media
Design
Reddit
788

25

Rob
Written by Rob
21 followers
.
17 following

Follow
Responses (25)

Write a response

What are your thoughts?

Cancel
Respond
Social Extinction

Social Extinction

Apr 8, 2016

And *this* is why Reddit is now...Reddit.

9

1 reply

Reply

Sergey CapWeb

Sergey CapWeb

Jun 15, 2020

I have some old reddit accounts on it-theme 2-5 years old 4000+ karma. How to estimate them?

1

1 reply

Reply

Bryce MacInnis

Bryce MacInnis

Jun 4, 2019 (edited)

Looks like this approach may becoming more viable now that there are large-scale reddit account providers. I've never been able to buy any reddit accounts before seeing sites like www.thefrontpagestore.com come up. Looks fortunate that Reddit will become a way to market digitally in the future.

1

Reply

See all responses

More from Rob

The Ultimate Guide to Setting and Keeping Better New Year's Resolutions

Alida Miranda-Wolff

Alida Miranda-Wolff

The Ultimate Guide to Setting and Keeping Better New Year's Resolutions

By Alida Miranda-Wolff

Dec 31, 2017

461

2

A Brief and Broad History of Post Golden Age-Pre-Digital Comic Book Coloring

Sarah

Sarah

A Brief and Broad History of Post Golden Age-Pre-Digital Comic Book Coloring

If I told you to think of a Silver Age comic book, what image does your mind conjure? Chances are, you're picturing a comic with bold lines...

Jul 30, 2021

371

5

Understanding Vector Quantized Variational Autoencoders (VQ-VAE)

Shashank Yadav
Shashank Yadav

Understanding Vector Quantized Variational Autoencoders (VQ-VAE)

From my most recent escapade into the deep learning literature I present to you this paper by Oord et. al. which presents the idea of...

Aug 31, 2019

624

11

The Problem with Referring to Women as "Females"

Holly

Holly

The Problem with Referring to Women as "Females"

Although the word holds scientific truth, social construction had rendered it a degrading noun, and women deserve more than that.

Feb 19, 2020

431

22

See all from Rob

Recommended from Medium

Witchcraft in Plain Sight

Adorn Her

Adorn Her

Witchcraft in Plain Sight

A Warning to Christian Women Chasing the Supernatural

Dec 21

54

3

Stanford Just Killed Prompt Engineering With 8 Words (And I Can't Believe It Worked)

Generative AI

In

Generative AI

by

Adham Khaled

Stanford Just Killed Prompt Engineering With 8 Words (And I Can't Believe It Worked)

ChatGPT keeps giving you the same boring response? This new technique unlocks 2x more creativity from ANY AI model—no training required...

Oct 19

21K

535

I Made \$1,000 With ChatGPT and Google Docs in 7 Days

Activated Thinker

In

Activated Thinker

by

May Lady

I Made \$1,000 With ChatGPT and Google Docs in 7 Days

It's easier than you think

Dec 19

698

18

The AI Bubble Is About To Burst, But The Next Bubble Is Already Growing
Will Lockett
Will Lockett

The AI Bubble Is About To Burst, But The Next Bubble Is Already Growing
Techbros are preparing their latest bandwagon.

Sep 14

20K

782

A middle-aged man with short dark hair, a beard, and glasses looks surprised and upset, surprised and angry. He wears a beige sweater and is positioned on the right side of the image against a light background. On the left, bold white text on a black rectangle reads, "YOUR CHATGPT HISTORY IS SHOWING UP ON GOOGLE. Here's what to do." Ask ChatGPT

How To Profit AI®

In

How To Profit AI®

by

Mohamed Bakry

Your ChatGPT History Just Went Public on Google. Here's What I Did in 10 Mins to Fix It.

Safety/Privacy Check Prompt Template Is Included

1d ago

14.2K

447

I Handed ChatGPT \$100 to Trade Stocks—Here's What Happened in 2 Months.

Coding Nexus

In

Coding Nexus

by

Civil Learning

I Handed ChatGPT \$100 to Trade Stocks—Here's What Happened in 2 Months.

What happens when you let a chatbot play Wall Street? It's up 29% while the S&P 500 lags at 4%.

Sep 2

8.2K

228

See more recommendations

Help

Status

About

Careers

Press

Blog

Privacy

Rules

Terms

Text to speechSkip to main content

Confession of Hillary Shill from /r/SandersForPresident - thread is now gone but someone saved the content. : r/conspiracy

Open menu

r/conspiracy

Search in r/conspiracy

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/conspiracy icon

Go to conspiracy

r/conspiracy

•

10y ago

sammichbitch

Confession of Hillary Shill from /r/SandersForPresident - thread is now gone but someone saved the content.

Original thread - <https://archive.is/Jrwd3>

Screenshot - <http://imgur.com/95mRUsB>

Content: <http://pastebin.com/qqNTbgkx>

Good afternoon. As of today, I am officially a former "digital media specialist" (a nice way to say "paid Internet troll") previously employed by Hillary Clinton's campaign (through a PR firm). I'm posting here today as a confession of sorts because I can no longer continue to participate in something that has become morally-indigestible for me. (This is a one-time throwaway account, but I'll stick around for this thread.)

First, my background. I am [redacted] ... and first became involved in politics during the 2008 presidential race. I worked as a volunteer for Hillary during the Democratic primary and then for the Democratic Party in the general election. I was not heavily involved in the 2012 election cycle (employment issues - volunteering doesn't pay the rent), and I wasn't really planning on getting involved in this cycle until I was contacted by a friend from college around six months ago about working on Hillary's campaign.

I was skeptical at first (especially after my experience as an unpaid volunteer in 2008), but I eventually came around. The work time and payment was flexible, and I figured that I could bring in a little extra money writing about things I supported anyways. After some consideration, I emailed my resume to the campaign manager he had named, and within a week, I was in play. I don't want to get bogged down on this subject, but I was involved with PPP (pay per post) on forums and in the comments section of (mostly-liberal) news and blog sites. Spending my time on weekends and evenings, I brought in roughly an extra \$100 or so a week, which was a nice cushion for me.

At first, the work was fun and mostly unsupervised. I posted mostly positive things about Hillary and didn't engage in much negativity. Around the middle of July, however, I received notification that the team would be focusing not on pro-Hillary forum management, but on "mitigation" (the term our team leader used) for a Vermont senator named Bernie Sanders. I'd been out of college for several years and hadn't heard much about Sanders, and so I decided to do some

research to get a feel for him.

To be honest, I was skeptical of what Sanders was saying at the beginning, and didn't have much of a problem pointing out the reasons why I believed that Hillary was the better candidate. Over a period of two months, I gradually started to find Bernie appealing, even if I still disagreed with him on some issues. By September, I found myself as a closet Bernie supporter, though I still believed that Hillary was the only electable Democratic candidate.

The real problem for me started around the end of September and the beginning of October, when there was a change of direction from the team leader again. Apparently, the higher-ups in the firm caught wind of an impending spending splurge by the Clinton campaign that month and wanted to put up an impressive display. We received very specific instructions about how and what to post, and I was aghast at what I saw. It was a complete change in tone and approach, and it was extremely nasty in character. We changed from advocates to hatchet men, and it left a very bad taste in my mouth.

Just to give you an idea, here are some of the guidelines for our posting in October:

Sexism. This was the biggest one we were supposed to push. We had to smear Bernie as misogynistic and out-of-touch with modern sensibilities. He was to be characterized as "an old white male relic that believed women enjoyed being gang raped". Anyone who tried to object to this characterization would be repeatedly slammed as sexist until they went away or people lost interest.

Racism. We were instructed to hammer home how Bernie supporters were all privileged white students that had no idea how the world worked. We had to tout Hillary's great record with "the blacks" (yes, that's the actual way it was phrased), and generally use racial identity politics to attack Sanders and bolster Hillary as the only unifying figure.

Electability. All of those posts about how Sanders can never win and Hillary is inevitable? Some of those were us, done deliberately in an attempt to demoralize Bernie supporters and convince them to stop campaigning for him. The problem is that this was an outright fabrication and not an accurate assessment of the current political situation. But the truth didn't matter - we were trying to create a new truth, not to spread the existing truth.

Dirty tactics. This is where things got really bad. We were instructed to create narratives of Clinton supporters as being victimized by Sanders supporters, even if they were entirely fabricated. There were different instructions about how to do it, but something like this (<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/10/31/1443064/-Dis-heartened-Hillary-Supporter>) is a perfect example. These kind of posts are manufactured to divide and demoralize Sanders supporters, and are entirely artificial in nature. (The same thing happened in 2008, but it wasn't as noticeable before social media and public attention focused on popular forums like Reddit).

Opponent outreach. There are several forums and imageboards where Sanders is not very popular (I think you can imagine which ones those are.) We were instructed to make pro-Sanders troll posts to rile up the user base and then try to goad them into raiding or attacking places like this subreddit. This was probably the only area where we only had mixed success, since that particular subset of the population were more difficult to manipulate than we originally thought.

In any case, the final nail in the coffin for me happened last night. I was on an imageboard trying to rile up the Trump-supporting natives with inflammatory Bernie posting, and the sum of responses I received basically argued that at least Bernie was genuine in his belief, even if they disagreed with his positions, which made him infinitely better than the 100% amoral and power-hungry Hillary.

I had one of those "what are you doing with your life" moments. When even the scum of 4chan think that your candidate is too scummy for their tastes, you need to take a good hard look at your life. Then this morning I read that the National Association of Broadcasters were bankrolling both Clinton and Rubio, and that broke the camel's back. I emailed my resignation this morning.

I'm going to go all in for Bernie now, because I truly believe that the Democratic Party has lost its way, and that redemption can only come by standing for something right and not by compromising for false promises and fake ideals. I want to apologize to everyone here for my part in this nasty affair, and I hope you will be more aware of attempts to sway you away from supporting the only candidate that can bring us what we need.

This is also related with the ongoing anti-Trump scandal. reddit posts :

<https://archive.is/gwtia>

<https://archive.is/OU5M4>

<https://archive.is/T8oQx>

Updated info - <http://imgur.com/a/K3LKZ>

Update:

Adam Parkhomenko, who is directly under payroll of Hillary Clinton was defending the blunder of his friend Luke Montgomery on 4chan. (not sure if troll or serious) but take a look at this:

His 4chan post on /pol/ board where he is defending Hillary from the anti-Trump scandal. <http://imgur.com/a/90HA9>

Archived link of /pol/ thread : <https://archive.is/n1FHX> - His posting ID is rcMI9HXF

<https://twitter.com/AdamParkhomenko>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Parkhomenko

(disclaimer: this is not doxing, this is publicly available information which can be easily found using google.)

Update:

To understand what's going on within 4 minutes, here is a Foxnews report about this. <http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/4598988210001/new-attack-ad-against-trump-a-low-blow/?#sp=show-clips>

532

.

161

Comments Section

u/kwh avatar

kwh

•

10y ago

In any case, the final nail in the coffin for me happened last night. I was on an imageboard trying to rile up the Trump-supporting natives with inflammatory Bernie posting, and the sum of responses I received basically argued that at least Bernie was genuine in his belief, even if they disagreed with his positions, which made him infinitely better than the 100% amoral and power-hungry Hillary.

I had one of those "what are you doing with your life" moments.

Only 4chan could believe that a presidential campaign would seriously pay people to troll 4chan.

8

3 more replies
[deleted]

•

10y ago
Just to set the record straight....

The post was removed by us on r/SandersForPresident because the OP failed to provide any proof of his employment with the Clinton campaign.

We didn't remove it for any other reason other than that. If he provides substantial proof that he is who he says he is, and that the campaign is implementing the strategy that he says they are, then we'd likely allow the content. But until then, it's no different than saying something like, "I met Obama at a bar once and he spit on my baby!"

Anyways. That's all. I've seen people suggest that we, the mods, are Hillary shills. This is false. We've been campaigning for Bernie since before Bernie even had a campaign. I wish I got paid for this work, though...

85

u/14bikes avatar
14bikes

•

10y ago
Let's dispel this notion once and for all that Obama doesn't know what he's doing. He knew exactly what he was doing when he spit on my baby.

15

2 more replies

21 more replies
shatabee4

•

10y ago
The Sanders campaign needs to wise up to these underhanded attacks. DailyKos is the place to find them. DailyKos's supposed goal is to elect more and better Democrats. All it really does is spew a constant stream of "Look at those crazy Republicans" diaries while totally ignoring what a bunch of losers the Democrats have. The website's real goal is to get Hillary elected, even though she is everything that is wrong with the Democratic Party.

68

dolaction

•

10y ago
And has everyone forgotten Hilary already bought most of her Facebook likes, it's not a stretch to think she'd go deeper trying to create a false truth.

The only reason she seems halfway electable is because she's bought so many shills to say that she is.

29

u/dejenerate avatar
dejenerate

•

10y ago

Yep. \$500,000 of taxpayer dollars, for Facebook likes. She's so cheap when it comes to her own cash, I wonder how she's getting taxpayer dollars to help fund her Reddit trolls, ugh. Can bet no matter how she's figured it, it'll be funded via tax-free vehicles.

15

2 more replies

1 more reply

moving-target

•

10y ago

Please please please make this go viral.

39

4 more replies

NutritionResearch

•

10y ago

Here's a few more confessions:

Fracking shill whistleblower spills the beans on Fracking Internet PR

Shill whistleblower, claims to have derailed discussions and called people anti-semites, ruined reputations of users by searching their account history, amongst other things.

Whistleblower and subsequent investigation: Paid trolls on /r/Bitcoin

34

1 more reply

Yooway

•

10y ago

"We received very specific instructions about how and what to post"

It would be most useful if someone could obtain a copy of these instructions.

14

u/SnorkellingDust avatar

SnorkellingDust

•

10y ago

This needs more attention.

12

u/belleveritas avatar

belleveritas

•

10y ago

Well, I knew this was happening right after Bernie announced and I joined some Bernie groups. There were these omnipresent nice ladies who were scolding and lecturing anyone who mentioned anything critical about Hillary. They called any discussion about her record "bashing," and reiterated repeatedly that "Bernie wouldn't do it."

Then, they started calling Bernie supporters "bullies." I realized that was an organized project when some gal wrote on a reddit thread that there would be more blogs coming out soon about the "Bernie bullies." Oops

They have been very organized, to be sure. I just watched this video about a Hillary dirty trickster who is attributing a tacky video to Bernie sponsorship, and the code clearly links to a Hillary operative. She really does NOT need to do that. She should just lay out her real policies which are not "democratic socialism" and more Status Quo. A lot of people may be comfortable with that.

I'm not. But she apparently has many supporters that do not care what her positions are. They will be loyal. She doesn't have to be a dirtbag.

9

1 more reply
u/dejenerate avatar
dejenerate

•

10y ago

Think you can delete the identifying characteristics (race, age, gender, what he/she did this morning?) in this to protect the whistleblower? It may be too late, but anything you can do in the event that this is legit (my money's on it being legit, so, protecting this person is important but even if the person is not legit, what's it hurt to hide their identifying info?).

It'd be very easy for Hillary's people to figure out who this is and they are VERY vengeful if history's any judge.

16

u/steve0suprem0 avatar
steve0suprem0

•

10y ago

good idea, but it can still be viewed after an edit, there's a 'view the difference' link in the upper right corner.

<http://pastebin.com/diff.php?i=qqNTbgkx>

9

1 more reply
drogean3

•

10y ago

Anyone who frequents r/politics can definitely tell there has been WAY more anti-sanders/Pro Hillary postings in the last month

183

proR0Kexpat

•

10y ago

Very true. Many of them new accounts

98

[deleted]

•

10y ago

u/FluentInTypo avatar
FluentInTypo

•

10y ago

Well...there is also the u/CANT_TRUST_HILLARY user account which somehow, in 3 months, gathered 90,000ish and 70,000ish link karma and comment karma in about

90 days. Thats 3000 link karma a day.

Shill.

22

3 more replies
moving-target

•

10y ago

They are so obvious you could name them. They have even started to weasel their way into r/SandersForPresident

Redfiz, Hillaryuberallies, Hillary4prez, flantabulous, Jonahrod20, nowwhathappenedwas, sleekery, Zeno, a few new ones that they swap like meat suits.

45

drogean3

•

10y ago

spot on

I know those names. If you reddit during early morning hours or late at night, when overall site usage is lower, you'll see those same exact handful of names popup along with a number of bs fluff articles or snarky comments as to why Hillary is inevitable and nobody should bother campaigning for anyone else

I've already put all their posts on Ignore

28

4 more replies
u/dejenerate avatar
dejenerate

•

10y ago

Sleekeree is a Monsanto troll, too. Makes sense, I guess, because their nasty online behavior is kind of the same. Kind of wonder why PR firms don't mix it up a little bit username-wise...

26

2 more replies

1 more reply
u/cuteman avatar
cuteman

•

10y ago

Anyone who frequents r/politics can definitely tell there has been WAY more anti-sanders/Pro Hillary postings in the last month

It goes back way further than that. 2008/2012 were huge as well. Anyone criticizing Obama for drone strike policy or the like were attacked and disregarded as Romney or McCain supporters.

Reddit has been a big enough forum since then to receive significant focus.

20

ChewyIsThatU

•

10y ago

LOL what? proof?

r/politics is a sanders circlejerk through and through.

8

6 more replies
u/aelroy avatar
aelroy

•

10y ago

As a die hard Bernie supporter all I can say is this post is highly suspicious. It reads like a planted post designed to discredit Sander's supporters, or as a besmirching campaign to spew hatred at Hillary. Either one is unacceptable.

None of the alleged posting claims have actually surfaced anywhere and they are fantastic and extreme in nature. This aside from the fact that it would be idiotic of anyone to officially distribute such incriminating instructions, let alone explain the rational behind them to paid staff.

I know mistrust of Hillary is running high, and I can understand that with regards to the type of shenanigans the DNC has been pulling and the attacks the Hillary campaign has launched at Sanders in the wake of the security leak, however it is important to resist the temptation to be dragged into disseminating dubious information and unsubstantiated rumors.

There is no evidence what so ever regarding the identity of the poster, and unless there was concrete proof, I would urge everyone to resist the temptation to engage in this slander. It is not going to advance Sanders' campaign one iota.

8

4 more replies
u/nachoprimaverde avatar
nachoprimaverde

•

10y ago

The OP of that is a RL friend of mine. I don't want to say to much as I don't want him to get in trouble. The company he worked for found out about post and threatend lawsuit for breaking NDA. They said they wouldn't sue him if he removed post.

I can't really say anything more sorry.

8

1 more reply
u/AmendNow avatar
AmendNow

•

10y ago

I am a reporter, and I'd love to have this former Clinton operative go on the record with me for an interview.

5

1 more reply
u/REXXT avatar
REXXT

•

10y ago

I'm not saying this is false flag, but this is what it would look like.

19

[deleted]

•

10y ago

This is the exact content her remaining peers would be paid to post...if it's even real to begin with.

Would be a lot more interesting if the overarching message wasn't GoBern!

17

14 more replies

u/BvD4progress avatar

BvD4progress

•

10y ago

Months ago I posted about this on DailyKos, because it was so obvious to anyone with a brain what the Clinton campaign was doing. My comment was promptly "Hidden" on DailyKos, and I was subsequently banned there.

shrug

Just as well, Markos Moulitsas has become an obnoxious little prig. I've no desire to contribute even one more pixel to him.

4

u/mikoniko avatar

mikoniko

•

10y ago

Wow. Sad that you can get so caught up making the doughnuts you don't even realize what they have slid you into. Happens everyday in corporate. You wake up and realize you are just doing it for the money and realize you now have more in common with a drug addicted prostitute than you realized. I finally left once I realized I had zero control of my destiny at that place after 15 years.

7

[deleted]

•

10y ago

Can you give me a number so i can become a paid shill? I will promote any agenda for some cash.

26

[deleted]

•

10y ago

me too. I already spend too much time on Reddit. Might as well get paid for it.

4

2 more replies

1 more reply

u/tartar_socks avatar

tartar_socks

•

10y ago

https://www.reddit.com/r/CodersForSanders/comments/3rw6kj/anthillary_shill_detection_bot/

Would love anyone's help here

6

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

10y ago

They still haven't changed their IP addresses:

<http://i.imgur.com/pe9Jme4.png>

6

2 more replies

u/vivacia5 avatar

vivacia5

•

10y ago

This was more than obvious. But on Daily Kos, the big guy himself, Kos, said you would get banned if you were to imply that the trolls were paid. Not a reality-based community as they claim.

6

[deleted]

•

10y ago

[deleted]

•

10y ago

Trump will be waiting for you when that lying bitch gets the nomination. I'm truly glad you saw the light.

4

u/indreamsitalkwithyou avatar

indreamsitalkwithyou

•

10y ago

What did she lie about?

1

2 more replies

wslover317

•

10y ago

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLNFsl130_Y&feature=youtu.be

2

wslover317

•

10y ago

I miss this guy

2

u/zazahan10 avatar

zazahan10

•

10y ago

Saves

2

iamagod_____

•

10y ago

u/ninjasuraya avatar

ninjasuraya

•

10y ago

Nice fanfiction.

3

u/AnthonyTVDotCom avatar

AnthonyTVDotCom

•

10y ago

My first instinct with this is to wonder if its just Pro-Sanders trying to discredit Hillary through the exact tactic they're acting like they're no longer using in the article...

3

[deleted]

•

10y ago

Honestly wouldn't be surprised if this was made up to make Bernie look like a victim. It's too ra ra ra for me. Reads like propaganda.

4

[deleted]

•

10y ago

Dude, everything reads like propaganda.

8

2 more replies

u/Craterdome avatar

Craterdome

•

10y ago

This reads like a Sanders supporter pretending to have been a Hillary shill because that's exactly what it is. Meanwhile there's a separate conspiracy positing that it's Hillary that is launching false flag operations.

There are a lot of Sanders supporters (I would say most) who adhere to his message and stay above the fray and on the issues. Then there's the other supporters who keep pushing increasingly ridiculous nonsense, especially after she solidified her lead after the Benghazi hearing. It must be frustrating to have your campaign not pick up the way you had hoped, but that's no excuse to push this nonsense.

3

LouieKablooie

•

10y ago

I wonder how many of him are out there.

2

u/Shiloh788 avatar

Shiloh788

•

10y ago

consider how much money billionares have to spend.

5

5 more replies
u/dejenerate avatar
dejenerate

•

10y ago

Lots. Run into them every day on Reddit. It's a massive waste of taxpayer dollars - they ALWAYS use tax-free vehicles to pay PR companies if we taxpayers aren't already overtly picking up the tab. It's fucked up and it's always surprising what absurd "interest" is being shilled and how nastily they're behaving.

Such a waste of money. They're always transparent and the way they interact with the public almost always turns regular people against the interests they're being paid to support. Funny how that works...

3

u/mirkogradski avatar
mirkogradski

•

10y ago

Wow, I applaud you for your courage. You're a patriot in a new era for this country. I applaud your efforts endlessly.

1

u/calledawarnobodycame avatar
calledawarnobodycame

•

10y ago

Only a shill could say that like they mean it. Well and some dumb broads who will vote for her just because she has a vagina..

0

u/dejenerate avatar
dejenerate

•

10y ago

I actually don't know a single woman right now planning to vote for Clinton, but thank you for letting us know about yer lady issues...

7

3 more replies
u/lazerorcathereturn avatar
lazerorcathereturn

•

10y ago

flip the script... what if this is a paid Sanders troll? #MindBlown

1

u/indreamsitalkwithyou avatar
indreamsitalkwithyou

•

10y ago

"an old white male relic that believed women enjoyed being gang raped"

You're a bad liar, ha.

0

u/Unadulterated_Honest avatar

Unadulterated_Honest

•

10y ago

Really cuz those comments aren't all over facebook right? You're an immoral sack of shit. One who is really bad at your job I might add. But hey, it is fine people without any morals tend to go into certain lines of work like yours. Debt collectors, people who try and force people into crappy colleges, and just general trash existences like the one you live. It must be nice having no morality to which to speak from.

Edit: And it is by no means a coincidence that you didn't comment on anything for 9 days and than out of nowhere this is the first thread you come to and post on.

4

1 more reply

u/Zanefry avatar

Zanefry

•

10y ago

Anyone notice that the deport racism and billforhilary2016 have the same layout?

<http://i.imgur.com/TsVkkAD.png>

<http://i.imgur.com/udnfhZk.png>

2

[deleted]

•

10y ago

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Political Irony Caught Online

r/clevercomebacks icon

r/clevercomebacks

•

8d ago

Political Irony Caught Online

r/clevercomebacks - Political Irony Caught Online

5.4K upvotes · 15 comments

Bernie Sanders withholds his vote on a Bill years in the making which would provide care for Children w/ Cancer because it wasn't perfect enough, causing the Bill to fail.; "He is literally killing kids in front of us because of his political movement,"

r/Destiny icon

r/Destiny

•

10d ago

Bernie Sanders withholds his vote on a Bill years in the making which would provide care for Children w/ Cancer because it wasn't perfect enough, causing the Bill to fail.; "He is literally killing kids in front of us because of his political movement,"

r/Destiny - Bernie Sanders withholds his vote on a Bill years in the making which would provide care for Children w/ Cancer because it wasn't perfect enough, causing the Bill to fail.; "He is literally killing kids in front of us because of his political movement,"

4

212 upvotes · 154 comments

This was a comment to a post about the blacked-out Epstein files.

r/clevercomebacks icon

r/clevercomebacks

•

6d ago

This was a comment to a post about the blacked-out Epstein files.

r/clevercomebacks - This was a comment to a post about the blacked-out Epstein files.

634 upvotes · 55 comments

When your so afraid of being called out on your bullshit you block the Public except 955 account from responding to your nonsense. Democrats love censorship. And they can't handle criticism.

r/trump icon

r/trump

•

5mo ago

When your so afraid of being called out on your bullshit you block the Public except 955 account from responding to your nonsense. Democrats love censorship. And they can't handle criticism.

r/trump - When your so afraid of being called out on your bullshit you block the Public except 955 account from responding to your nonsense. Democrats love censorship. And they can't handle criticism.

78 upvotes · 21 comments

"Old fashioned liberal" who suck's off the most tyrannical, anti-liberal

President in our nation's history

r/Destiny icon

r/Destiny

•

1mo ago

"Old fashioned liberal" who suck's off the most tyrannical, anti-liberal

President in our nation's history

r/Destiny - "Old fashioned liberal" who suck's off the most tyrannical, anti-liberal President in our nation's history

594 upvotes · 79 comments

These people are still upset a black man was president

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

28d ago

These people are still upset a black man was president

r/insanepeoplefacebook - These people are still upset a black man was president

1.4K upvotes · 107 comments

This person is really drinking the kool-aid. (on a post about worst US presidents in history)

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

4mo ago

This person is really drinking the kool-aid. (on a post about worst US presidents in history)

r/insanepeoplefacebook - This person is really drinking the kool-aid. (on a post about worst US presidents in history)

308 upvotes · 56 comments

Democrats sure picked a strange hill to die on

r/libsofreddit icon

r/libsofreddit

•

6mo ago

Democrats sure picked a strange hill to die on

r/libsofreddit - Democrats sure picked a strange hill to die on

371 upvotes · 13 comments

if only there was more republicans like him.

r/clevercomebacks icon
r/clevercomebacks

•

3mo ago

if only there was more republicans like him.

r/clevercomebacks - if only there was more republicans like him.

1.6K upvotes · 59 comments

Nothing Trump does will ever phase these people

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

13d ago

Nothing Trump does will ever phase these people

r/insanepeoplefacebook - Nothing Trump does will ever phase these people

3

442 upvotes · 131 comments

Dems on Reddit live their echo chamber.

r/trump icon

r/trump

•

4mo ago

Dems on Reddit live their echo chamber.

r/trump - Dems on Reddit live their echo chamber.

190 upvotes · 13 comments

The Democrats posted this

r/thebulwark icon

r/thebulwark

•

7d ago

The Democrats posted this

r/thebulwark - The Democrats posted this

81 upvotes · 27 comments

"If a republican did this" YOU ALREADY DO!

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

17d ago

"If a republican did this" YOU ALREADY DO!

r/insanepeoplefacebook - "If a republican did this" YOU ALREADY DO!

2.7K upvotes · 63 comments

Trump is literally endorsing the neo-nazi conspiracy theory of white genocide!!

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

1mo ago

Trump is literally endorsing the neo-nazi conspiracy theory of white genocide!!

r/insanepeoplefacebook - Trump is literally endorsing the neo-nazi conspiracy theory of white genocide!!

569 upvotes · 76 comments

Democrats will find a new strategy, see it work, and then immediately abandon it, condemn it, and never use it again, before going back to center-right consultants and decades-old ineffective rhetorics.

r/WhitePeopleTwitter icon

r/WhitePeopleTwitter

•

7mo ago

Democrats will find a new strategy, see it work, and then immediately abandon it, condemn it, and never use it again, before going back to center-right consultants and decades-old ineffective rhetorics.

r/WhitePeopleTwitter - Democrats will find a new strategy, see it work, and then immediately abandon it, condemn it, and never use it again, before going back to center-right consultants and decades-old ineffective rhetorics.

783 upvotes · 44 comments

Confirmed false flag. Republican staffer stages political violence.

r/conspiracy icon
r/conspiracy

•

1mo ago

Confirmed false flag. Republican staffer stages political violence.
r/conspiracy - Confirmed false flag. Republican staffer stages political violence.

121 upvotes · 35 comments

The fact that they think Trump wouldn't be a part of this is hilarious

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

3mo ago

The fact that they think Trump wouldn't be a part of this is hilarious
r/insanepeoplefacebook - The fact that they think Trump wouldn't be a part of this is hilarious

267 upvotes · 8 comments

So some democrats won some elections today, I'm sure the comments on this post will be civil, reflective, and congratulatory!

r/insanepeoplefacebook icon

r/insanepeoplefacebook

•

2mo ago

So some democrats won some elections today, I'm sure the comments on this post will be civil, reflective, and congratulatory!

r/insanepeoplefacebook - So some democrats won some elections today, I'm sure the comments on this post will be civil, reflective, and congratulatory!

6

110 upvotes · 15 comments

Establishment Dems are getting aggressive

r/WhitePeopleTwitter icon

r/WhitePeopleTwitter

•

6mo ago

Establishment Dems are getting aggressive
r/WhitePeopleTwitter - Establishment Dems are getting aggressive

1.2K upvotes · 64 comments

Fricken republicans 🇺🇸

r/MarchAgainstNazis icon

r/MarchAgainstNazis

•

2mo ago

Fricken republicans 🇺🇸

r/MarchAgainstNazis - Fricken republicans 🇺🇸

2

40 upvotes · 11 comments

this is crazy they are going after congressional candidates.

r/WhitePeopleTwitter icon

r/WhitePeopleTwitter

•

2mo ago

this is crazy they are going after congressional candidates.
r/WhitePeopleTwitter - this is crazy they are going after congressional candidates.

167 upvotes · 12 comments

I think the dems finally have one on Trump. This could be bad...

r/ConservativeMemes icon

r/ConservativeMemes

•

10d ago

I think the dems finally have one on Trump. This could be bad...

r/ConservativeMemes - I think the dems finally have one on Trump. This could be bad...

354 upvotes · 15 comments

So, the next time Dems are in power, we can do the same thing to Fox News, right?

[r/WhitePeopleTwitter icon](#)

[r/WhitePeopleTwitter](#)

•

3mo ago

So, the next time Dems are in power, we can do the same thing to Fox News, right?

[r/WhitePeopleTwitter](#) - So, the next time Dems are in power, we can do the same thing to Fox News, right?

180 upvotes · 37 comments

Democrats reported receiving heightened threats on Friday

[r/WhitePeopleTwitter icon](#)

[r/WhitePeopleTwitter](#)

•

4mo ago

Democrats reported receiving heightened threats on Friday

[r/WhitePeopleTwitter](#) - Democrats reported receiving heightened threats on Friday

86 upvotes · 17 comments

Community Info Section

[r/conspiracy](#)

Join

[conspiracy](#)

This is a forum for free thinking and for discussing issues which have captured your imagination. Please respect other views and opinions, and keep an open mind. Our goal is to create a fairer and more transparent world for a better future.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of November 5, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of November 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

[archive.today](#)

[webpage capture](#)

Saved from

https://np.reddit.com/r/SandersForPresident/comments/3r9cjp/confession_of_former_hillary_shill/

no other snapshots from this url

5 Nov 2015 16:54:59 UTC

All snapshots from host [np.reddit.com](#)

WebpageScreenshot

sharedownload .zipreport bug or abuseBuy me a coffee

[jump to content](#)

[my subreddits](#)

[front-all-random](#) | [gadgets](#)-[sports](#)-[gaming](#)-[pics](#)-[worldnews](#)-[videos](#)-[AskReddit](#)-[aww](#)-[Music](#)-[funny](#)-[news](#)-[movies](#)-[books](#)-[europe](#)-[history](#)-[food](#)-[philosophy](#)-[television](#)-[Jokes](#)-[Art](#)-[DIY](#)-[space](#)-[Documentaries](#)-[Fitness](#)-[askscience](#)-[nottheonion](#)-[todayilearned](#)-[personalfinance](#)-[gifs](#)-[listentothis](#)-[IAMA](#)-[TwoXChromosomes](#)-[creepy](#)-[nosleep](#)-[GetMotivated](#)-[WritingPrompts](#)-[LifeProTips](#)-[Bundesliga](#)-[EarthPorn](#)-[explainlikeimfive](#)-[Showerthoughts](#)-[Futurology](#)-[photoshopbattles](#)-[mildlyinteresting](#)-[dataisbeautiful](#)-[tifu](#)-[OldSchoolCool](#)-[UpliftingNews](#)-[InternetIsBeautiful](#)-[de_IAMA](#)-[science](#)

[more »](#)

[SandersForPresident](#) [SandersForPresidentcommentsrelated](#)

Want to join? Log in or sign up in seconds.|np

search

this post was submitted on 02 Nov 2015

3 points (100% upvoted)

shortlink:

<https://redd.it/3r9cjp>

username

password

remember mereset passwordlogin

Submit a new link

Please read the rules before making a new post!

Submit a new text post

Please read the rules before making a new post!

Sanders For PresidentSandersForPresident

subscribe130,894 readers

1,219 users here now

/r/SandersForPresident is a moderated community geared toward political activism and digital grassroots organizing. Please read the rules before posting or commenting. Thank you!

DAYS TO IOWA:88Bernie Needs You! Join r/SFP's Veterans Day Donation Drive!

MAKE A DONATION

Community Guidelines

Contact The Team

How to Vote in 2016

Find an Event Near You

Learn About Bernie's Stances

Find Your State Subreddit

/r/AlabamaForSanders

/r/AlaskaForSanders

/r/Arizonaforsanders

/r/ArkansasForSanders

/r/CaliforniaForSanders

/r/Colorado4Sanders

/r/DC4SandersDC

/r/Delaware4SandersDE

/r/FloridaForSanders

/r/Georgia4Sanders

/r/HawaiiForSanders

/r/Idaho4Sanders

/r/Illinois4Sanders

/r/IndianaForSanders

/r/IowaForSanders

/r/Kansas4Sanders

/r/KentuckyForSanders

/r/LouisianaForSanders

/r/Maryland4SandersMD

/r/Michigan4Sanders

/r/Minnesota4Sanders

/r/MississippiForSanders

/r/Missouri4Sanders

/r/Montana4Sanders

/r/Nebraska4Sanders

/r/NevadaForSanders

/r/NewEngland4Sanders

/r/NewJerseyForSandersNJ

/r/NewMexicoForSanders

/r/NewYorkForSanders

/r/NorthCarolina4Sanders

/r/NorthDakota4Sanders

/r/OhioForSanders

/r/OklahomaForSanders

/r/OregonforSanders

/r/PAMForSanders

/r/SouthCarolina4Sanders

[/r/SouthDakotaForSanders](#)
[/r/TennesseeForSanders](#)
[/r/TexasForSanders](#)
[/r/Utah4Sanders](#)
[/r/VirginiaForSanders](#)
[/r/WashingtonForSanders](#)
[/r/WVForSanders](#)
[/r/Wisconsin4sanders](#)
[/r/WyomingForSanders](#)
REDDIT DONATION TRACKER

All donations listed have been raised by Grassroots for Sanders affiliates and the [/r/SandersForPresident](#) community

[Official Campaign Resources](#)

[Join](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Official Campaign Store](#)

[Bernie's Platform](#)

[Get Active](#)

[Wiki & FAQ](#)

[How To Help](#)

[Join us in IRC Chat](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Tumblr](#)

[Instagram](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please message the moderators.

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Rally with Senator Sanders - Concord, NH

11/5 - 3:30PM ET

South Carolina Democratic Forum - Rock Hill, SC

11/6 - 8PM ET

Bernie Camp - NH

11/7 - All Day

Iowa Weekend of Action

11/7-11/8 - All Day

Aiken Town Hall - Aiken, SC

11/7 - 7PM ET

Las Vegas Rally

11/8 - 6PM PT

[discuss this ad on reddit](#)

[message the moderators](#)

[SUBREDDIT MODERATORS](#)

[Vermonty_Python](#) Minister of Silly Walks

[IrrationalTsunami](#) Toby Ziegler

[scriggitities](#) Joffrey Baratheon

[writingtoss](#) Leslie Knope

[itspara](#) President of Pasta

[jb2386](#) Gaius Baltar

[AvadaKedavra03](#) Kingsley Shacklebolt

[icaito](#) Hipólito Martínez Mendoza

[AutoModerator](#) EDI

[NearEarthOrbit](#) Nathan Petrelli

...and 4 more »

[discussions in /r/SandersForPresident](#)

<>X

363 points · 30 comments

I once asked Bernie about how he sees the relationship the grassroots will have with the official campaign, he said "I trust the autonomy of the grassroots movement and we will release literature to help everyone be on message." Well, they just released the literature + 250 stickers!

2

Confession of Former Hillary Shill self.SandersForPresident
submitted 2 days ago by FrmrHillaryOp

[removed]

commentshare

no comments (yet)

sorted by: best

there doesn't seem to be anything here.

about

blog

about

values

team

source code

advertise

jobs

help

site rules

FAQ

wiki

reddiquette

transparency

contact us

apps & tools

Alien Blue iOS app

reddit AMA app

mobile beta

buttons

<3

reddit gold

reddit store

redditgifts

reddit.tv

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement and Privacy Policy. © 2015 reddit inc. All rights reserved.

REDDIT and the ALIEN Logo are registered trademarks of reddit inc.

π

0%

10%

20%

30%

40%

50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

100%

[Skip to main content](#)
Confession of Former Hillary Shill : r/SandersForPresident

[Open menu](#)

[r/SandersForPresident](#)
[Search in r/SandersForPresident](#)
[Log In](#)

[Expand user menu](#)

[Back](#)
[r/SandersForPresident icon](#)
[Go to SandersForPresident](#)
[r/SandersForPresident](#)

•

10y ago
FrmrHillryOp

Confession of Former Hillary Shill

Good afternoon. As of today, I am officially a former "digital media specialist" (a nice way to say "paid Internet troll") previously employed by Hillary Clinton's campaign (through a PR firm). I'm posting here today as a confession of sorts because I can no longer continue to participate in something that has become morally-indigestible for me. (This is a one-time throwaway account, but I'll stick around for this thread.)

First, my background. I am a mixed-race Asian/White male in my late 20s residing in the Northeast. I graduated from college with a BA in political science and first became involved in politics during the 2008 presidential race. I worked as a volunteer for Hillary during the Democratic primary and then for the Democratic Party in the general election. I was not heavily involved in the 2012 election cycle (employment issues - volunteering doesn't pay the rent), and I wasn't really planning on getting involved in this cycle until I was contacted by a friend from college around six months ago about working on Hillary's campaign.

I was skeptical at first (especially after my experience as an unpaid volunteer in 2008), but I eventually came around. The work time and payment was flexible, and I figured that I could bring in a little extra money writing about things I supported anyways. After some consideration, I emailed my resume to the campaign manager he had named, and within a week, I was in play. I don't want to get bogged down on this subject, but I was involved with PPP (pay per post) on forums and in the comments section of (mostly-liberal) news and blog sites. Spending my time on weekends and evenings, I brought in roughly an extra \$100 or so a week, which was a nice cushion for me.

At first, the work was fun and mostly unsupervised. I posted mostly positive things about Hillary and didn't engage in much negativity. Around the middle of July, however, I received notification that the team would be focusing not on pro-Hillary forum management, but on "mitigation" (the term our team leader used) for a Vermont senator named Bernie Sanders. I'd been out of college for several years and hadn't heard much about Sanders, and so I decided to do some research to get a feel for him.

To be honest, I was skeptical of what Sanders was saying at the beginning, and didn't have much of a problem pointing out the reasons why I believed that Hillary was the better candidate. Over a period of two months, I gradually started to find Bernie appealing, even if I still disagreed with him on some issues. By September, I found myself as a closet Bernie supporter, though I still believed that Hillary was the only electable Democratic candidate.

The real problem for me started around the end of September and the beginning of October, when there was a change of direction from the team leader again. Apparently, the higher-ups in the firm caught wind of an impending spending splurge by the Clinton campaign that month and wanted to put up an impressive display. We received very specific instructions about how and what to post, and I was aghast at what I saw. It was a complete change in tone and approach, and it was extremely nasty in character. We changed from advocates to hatchet men, and it left a very bad taste in my mouth.

Just to give you an idea, here are some of the guidelines for our posting in October:

Sexism. This was the biggest one we were supposed to push. We had to smear Bernie as misogynistic and out-of-touch with modern sensibilities. He was to be characterized as "an old white male relic that believed women enjoyed being gang raped". Anyone who tried to object to this characterization would be repeatedly slammed as sexist until they went away or people lost interest.

Racism. We were instructed to hammer home how Bernie supporters were all privileged white students that had no idea how the world worked. We had to tout Hillary's great record with "the blacks" (yes, that's the actual way it was phrased), and generally use racial identity politics to attack Sanders and bolster Hillary as the only unifying figure.

Electability. All of those posts about how Sanders can never win and Hillary is inevitable? Some of those were us, done deliberately in an attempt to demoralize Bernie supporters and convince them to stop campaigning for him. The problem is that this was an outright fabrication and not an accurate assessment of the current political situation. But the truth didn't matter - we were trying to create a new truth, not to spread the existing truth.

Dirty tactics. This is where things got really bad. We were instructed to create narratives of Clinton supporters as being victimized by Sanders supporters, even if they were entirely fabricated. There were different instructions about how to do it, but something like this is a perfect example. These kind of posts are manufactured to divide and demoralize Sanders supporters, and are entirely artificial in nature. (The same thing happened in 2008, but it wasn't as noticeable before social media and public attention focused on popular forums like Reddit).

Opponent outreach. There are several forums and imageboards where Sanders is not very popular (I think you can imagine which ones those are.) We were instructed to make pro-Sanders troll posts to rile up the user base and then try to goad them into raiding or attacking places like this subreddit. This was probably the only area where we only had mixed success, since that particular subset of the population were more difficult to manipulate than we originally thought.

In any case, the final nail in the coffin for me happened last night. I was on an imageboard trying to rile up the Trump-supporting natives with inflammatory Bernie posting, and the sum of responses I received basically argued that at least Bernie was genuine in his belief, even if they disagreed with his

positions, which made him infinitely better than the 100% amoral and power-hungry Hillary.

I had one of those "what are you doing with your life" moments. When even the scum of 4chan think that your candidate is too scummy for their tastes, you need to take a good hard look at your life. Then this morning I read that the National Association of Broadcasters were bankrolling both Clinton and Rubio, and that broke the camel's back. I emailed my resignation this morning.

I'm going to go all in for Bernie now, because I truly believe that the Democratic Party has lost its way, and that redemption can only come by standing for something right and not by compromising for false promises and fake ideals. I want to apologize to everyone here for my part in this nasty affair, and I hope you will be more aware of attempts to sway you away from supporting the only candidate that can bring us what we need.

5

Comments Section

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Shameful.

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

6d ago

Shameful.

r/SandersForPresident - Shameful.

2.3K upvotes · 21 comments

We need a president who works to improve life for the millions who can't afford food, housing or health care, not one who enriches himself.

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

2d ago

We need a president who works to improve life for the millions who can't afford food, housing or health care, not one who enriches himself.

r/SandersForPresident - We need a president who works to improve life for the millions who can't afford food, housing or health care, not one who enriches himself.

845 upvotes · 10 comments

Our future does not have to be a dystopia. We deserve a future where everyone is guaranteed a dignified life!

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

17h ago

Our future does not have to be a dystopia. We deserve a future where everyone is guaranteed a dignified life!

r/SandersForPresident - Our future does not have to be a dystopia. We deserve a future where everyone is guaranteed a dignified life!

681 upvotes · 8 comments

Senate Democrats tread lightly on Maine primary as new poll shows Graham Platner leading Janet Mills

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

7d ago

Senate Democrats tread lightly on Maine primary as new poll shows Graham Platner leading Janet Mills

r/SandersForPresident - Senate Democrats tread lightly on Maine primary as new poll shows Graham Platner leading Janet Mills

nbcnews

363 upvotes · 13 comments

'It will transform our country': Bernie Sanders sounds alarms on impact of AI

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

1d ago

'It will transform our country': Bernie Sanders sounds alarms on impact of AI

r/SandersForPresident - 'It will transform our country': Bernie Sanders sounds alarms on impact of AI

yahoo

281 upvotes · 4 comments

Why this Democrat is primarying a 2-term Florida incumbent- Manly Med 4 All

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

2d ago

Why this Democrat is primarying a 2-term Florida incumbent- Manly Med 4 All

r/SandersForPresident - Why this Democrat is primarying a 2-term Florida

incumbent- Manly Med 4 All

newsnationnow

112 upvotes

Peggy Flanagan Lt Gov of Minnesota For Senate Med 4 All Bernie Backed

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

2d ago

Peggy Flanagan Lt Gov of Minnesota For Senate Med 4 All Bernie Backed

71 upvotes

Shelia D-20 Florida Stole Millions From Fema- Support Manly Med 4 All

r/SandersForPresident icon

r/SandersForPresident

•

2d ago

Shelia D-20 Florida Stole Millions From Fema- Support Manly Med 4 All

42 upvotes

Community Info Section

r/SandersForPresident

upvote

Join

SandersForPresident

Bernie Sanders 2028

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of November 2, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of November 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.

Search...

Dis-heartened Hillary Supporter

truebluedonkey, author

by truebluedonkey

Community (This content is not subject to review by Daily Kos staff prior to publication.)

Follow

View Profile

Saturday, October 31, 2015 at 1:29:48p CDT

157

Comments

157 New

Recommend Story

9

Share

x

I am a strong Hillary supporter. I am not a Wall Street Banker, or part of the wealthy upper class. I make 12/hr and work as a landscaper. I have made several small donations to Hillary Clinton. I want Bernie Sanders supporters to stop attacking Hillary and start attacking Republicans. I am tired of reading posts by self-righteous Sanders supporters who say they refuse to support Hillary, ever.

I personally benefitted from the recent Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage. This ruling was made possible by the election of Obama and his two liberal appointments to the Supreme Court. Has Obama been perfect? no!, Has he accomplished what he promised he would?, no! However, the legalization of gay marriage and enacting Obama care ARE big deals to those of us who benefitted from those accomplishments. Does Obama care go far enough? no! But it is a step in the right direction.

It is naïve to think Bernie Sanders won't end up accepting support from wealthy individuals or PACS if he wins the nomination. Remember, Barrack Obama reluctantly accepted those types of donations. The reality is that President Bernie Sanders will not accomplish his promises either. Why, because the Republicans have an over-whelming majority in Congress. The central and southern US are not Portlandia or New Hampshire. I doubt Bernie's politics will appeal to swing voters in the mid-west or south. I don't believe voters in these areas will suddenly start voting for Democrats for Congress. The people in these areas value hard work and paying your own way. They will react to proposals for free college education with "there is no such thing as a free lunch"

I am so dis-heartened by the attacks against Hillary by ideological purists that I am starting to consider with-holding my support from Sanders if he wins the primary. I have never done this in the past. I initially supported Hillary in 2008, but switched to Obama. I never once considered with-holding my support from Obama, but his supporters didn't attack Hillary to the same degree as Sander's supporters. I wish Sander's supporters would use the same tactics as Bernie himself. I am seriously considering withholding my support from Sanders if he wins the nomination. I will either write in Hillary or vote for a third party candidate.

Can you support progressive media today?

Daily Kos can't continue delivering the progressive coverage you rely on without immediate support from readers. Small donations fund everything we do. If you value our work, now is the moment to step up. Please donate \$5 today.

Can you contribute \$5 today to continue community support that keeps our lights on?

One-time

Monthly

\$5
\$15
\$25
Other
\$
Other amount...

OR

Donate with

Donate with PayPal button

This content was created by a Daily Kos Community member.

Make YOUR voice heard!

Log in or create an account.

3 tags

#Elections

#White House

#WhiteHouse

Was this story worth reading?

Recommending and sharing stories helps us decide which stories are most important to show our readers.

Recommend Story

9

Share

x

157Comments

Join the Discussion

© Kos Media, LLC.

Site content may be used for any purpose without explicit permission unless otherwise specified. 'Kos' and 'Daily Kos' are registered trademarks of Kos Media, LLC.

Privacy Policy

Daily Kos

Front Page

Comics

RSS

Subscribe

Gift Subscriptions

Sign Up / Manage Newsletters

About

Terms

Rules of the Road

DMCA Copyright Notice

Privacy

About Us

Masthead

Code of Ethics

Contact Us

Advertising

Advertising Overview

Careers

Jobs

Merchandise

Shirts

Connect With Us

Daily Kos moves in solidarity with the Black community.

Learn MorePastebin

API
tools
faq
paste
Search...

Login Sign up

SHARE

TWEET

Guest User

Confession of Hillary Shill from /r/SandersForPresident

a guest

Nov 5th, 2015

27,771

0

Never

Add comment

Not a member of Pastebin yet? Sign Up, it unlocks many cool features!

6.66 KB | None |

Good afternoon. As of today, I am officially a former "digital media specialist" (a nice way to say "paid Internet troll") previously employed by Hillary Clinton's campaign (through a PR firm). I'm posting here today as a confession of sorts because I can no longer continue to participate in something that has become morally-indigestible for me. (This is a one-time throwaway account, but I'll stick around for this thread.)

First, my background. I am [redacted] ... and first became involved in politics during the 2008 presidential race. I worked as a volunteer for Hillary during the Democratic primary and then for the Democratic Party in the general election. I was not heavily involved in the 2012 election cycle (employment issues - volunteering doesn't pay the rent), and I wasn't really planning on getting involved in this cycle until I was contacted by a friend from college around six months ago about working on Hillary's campaign.

I was skeptical at first (especially after my experience as an unpaid volunteer in 2008), but I eventually came around. The work time and payment was flexible, and I figured that I could bring in a little extra money writing about things I supported anyways. After some consideration, I emailed my resume to the campaign manager he had named, and within a week, I was in play. I don't want to get bogged down on this subject, but I was involved with PPP (pay per post) on forums and in the comments section of (mostly-liberal) news and blog sites. Spending my time on weekends and evenings, I brought in roughly an extra \$100 or so a week, which was a nice cushion for me.

At first, the work was fun and mostly unsupervised. I posted mostly positive things about Hillary and didn't engage in much negativity. Around the middle of July, however, I received notification that the team would be focusing not on pro-Hillary forum management, but on "mitigation" (the term our team leader used) for a Vermont senator named Bernie Sanders. I'd been out of college for several years and hadn't heard much about Sanders, and so I decided to do some research to get a feel for him.

To be honest, I was skeptical of what Sanders was saying at the beginning, and didn't have much of a problem pointing out the reasons why I believed that Hillary was the better candidate. Over a period of two months, I gradually started to find Bernie appealing, even if I still disagreed with him on some issues. By September, I found myself as a closet Bernie supporter, though I still believed that Hillary was the only electable Democratic candidate.

The real problem for me started around the end of September and the beginning of October, when there was a change of direction from the team leader again. Apparently, the higher-ups in the firm caught wind of an impending spending splurge by the Clinton campaign that month and wanted to put up an impressive

display. We received very specific instructions about how and what to post, and I was aghast at what I saw. It was a complete change in tone and approach, and it was extremely nasty in character. We changed from advocates to hatchet men, and it left a very bad taste in my mouth.

Just to give you an idea, here are some of the guidelines for our posting in October:

- 1) Sexism. This was the biggest one we were supposed to push. We had to smear Bernie as misogynistic and out-of-touch with modern sensibilities. He was to be characterized as "an old white male relic that believed women enjoyed being gang raped". Anyone who tried to object to this characterization would be repeatedly slammed as sexist until they went away or people lost interest.
- 2) Racism. We were instructed to hammer home how Bernie supporters were all privileged white students that had no idea how the world worked. We had to tout Hillary's great record with "the blacks" (yes, that's the actual way it was phrased), and generally use racial identity politics to attack Sanders and bolster Hillary as the only unifying figure.
- 3) Electability. All of those posts about how Sanders can never win and Hillary is inevitable? Some of those were us, done deliberately in an attempt to demoralize Bernie supporters and convince them to stop campaigning for him. The problem is that this was an outright fabrication and not an accurate assessment of the current political situation. But the truth didn't matter - we were trying to create a new truth, not to spread the existing truth.
- 4) Dirty tactics. This is where things got really bad. We were instructed to create narratives of Clinton supporters as being victimized by Sanders supporters, even if they were entirely fabricated. There were different instructions about how to do it, but something like this (<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/10/31/1443064/-Dis-heartened-Hillary-Supporter>) is a perfect example. These kind of posts are manufactured to divide and demoralize Sanders supporters, and are entirely artificial in nature. (The same thing happened in 2008, but it wasn't as noticeable before social media and public attention focused on popular forums like Reddit).
- 5) Opponent outreach. There are several forums and imageboards where Sanders is not very popular (I think you can imagine which ones those are.) We were instructed to make pro-Sanders troll posts to rile up the user base and then try to goad them into raiding or attacking places like this subreddit. This was probably the only area where we only had mixed success, since that particular subset of the population were more difficult to manipulate than we originally thought.

In any case, the final nail in the coffin for me happened last night. I was on an imageboard trying to rile up the Trump-supporting natives with inflammatory Bernie posting, and the sum of responses I received basically argued that at least Bernie was genuine in his belief, even if they disagreed with his positions, which made him infinitely better than the 100% amoral and power-hungry Hillary.

I had one of those "what are you doing with your life" moments. When even the scum of 4chan think that your candidate is too scummy for their tastes, you need to take a good hard look at your life. Then this morning I read that the National Association of Broadcasters were bankrolling both Clinton and Rubio, and that broke the camel's back. I emailed my resignation this morning.

I'm going to go all in for Bernie now, because I truly believe that the Democratic Party has lost its way, and that redemption can only come by standing for something right and not by compromising for false promises and fake ideals. I want to apologize to everyone here for my part in this nasty affair, and I hope you will be more aware of attempts to sway you away from supporting the only candidate that can bring us what we need.

Add Comment

Please, Sign In to add comment

Public Pastes

Untitled

1 hour ago | 18.27 KB

Untitled

3 hours ago | 16.29 KB

Untitled

5 hours ago | 23.85 KB

Untitled

5 hours ago | 11.06 KB

Untitled

7 hours ago | 41.78 KB

world building - guilder

8 hours ago | 20.20 KB

Untitled

9 hours ago | 64.70 KB

webtv mame launcher

Python | 12 hours ago | 34.50 KB

[create new paste](#) / [syntax languages](#) / [archive](#) / [faq](#) / [tools](#) / [night](#)

[mode](#) / [api](#) / [scraping api](#) / [news](#) / [pro](#)

[privacy statement](#) / [cookies policy](#) / [terms of service](#) / [security disclosure](#)

[/ dmca](#) / [report abuse](#) / [contact](#)

By using Pastebin.com you agree to our cookies policy to enhance your experience.

Site design & logo © 2025 Pastebin

We use cookies for various purposes including analytics. By continuing to use Pastebin, you agree to our use of cookies as described in the Cookies Policy.

OK, I Understand

Not a member of Pastebin yet?

Sign Up, it unlocks many cool features! [Skip to main content](#)

A very interesting insight into how certain hidden companies hire individuals to derail discussions, push political propaganda and specific views on the Internet - and their methods of doing so. I wonder how many of these we have on reddit? : r/politics

Open menu

r/politics

Search in r/politics

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/politics icon

Go to politics

r/politics

•

14y ago

throwthrow-away

A very interesting insight into how certain hidden companies hire individuals to derail discussions, push political propaganda and specific views on the Internet - and their methods of doing so. I wonder how many of these we have on reddit?
Not written by me:

I am writing here to come out of the closet as a paid shill. For a little over six months, I was paid to spread disinformation and argue political points on the Internet. This site, ATS, was NOT one that I was assigned to post on, although other people in the same organization were paid to be here, and I assume they still walk among you. But more on this later.

I quit this job in the latter part of 2011, because I became disgusted with it, and with myself. I realized I couldn't look myself in the mirror anymore. If this confession triggers some kind of retribution against me, so be it. Part of being a real man in this world is having real values that you stand up for, no matter what the consequences.

My story begins in early 2011. I had been out of work for almost a year after losing my last job in tech support. Increasingly desperate and despondent, I jumped at the chance when a former co-worker called me up and said she had a possible lead for me. "It is an unusual job, and one that requires secrecy. But the pay is good. And I know you are a good writer, so it's something you are suited for." (Writing has always been a hobby for me). She gave me only a phone number and an address, in one of the seedier parts of San Francisco, where I live. Intrigued, I asked her for the company's URL and some more info. She laughed. "They don't have a website. Or even a name. You'll see. Just tell them I referred you." Yes, it sounded suspicious, but long-term joblessness breeds desperation, and desperation has a funny way of overlooking the suspicious when it comes to putting food on the table.

The next day, I arrived at the address - the third floor in a crumbling building. The appearance of the place did not inspire confidence. After walking down a long, filthy linoleum-covered corridor lit by dimly-flickering halogen, I came to the entrance of the office itself: a crudely battered metal door with a sign that said "United Amalgamated Industries, Inc." I later learned that this "company" changed its name almost monthly, always using bland names like that which gave no strong impression of what the company actually does. Not too hopeful, I went inside. The interior was equally shabby. There were a few long tables with folding chairs, at which about a dozen people were tapping away on old, beat-up computers. There were no decorations or ornaments of any type: not even the standard-issue office ficus trees or plastic ferns. What a dump. Well, beggars can't be choosers.

The manager, a balding man in his late forties, rose from the only stand-alone desk in the room and came forward with an easy smile. "You must be Chris. Yvette [my ex-co-worker] told me you'd be coming." [Not our real names]. "Welcome. Let me tell you a little about what we do." No interview, nothing. I later learned they took people based solely on referral, and that the people making the referrals, like my ex-colleague Yvette, were trained to pick out candidates based on several factors including ability to keep one's mouth shut, basic writing skills, and desperation for work.

We sat down at his desk and he began by asking me a few questions about myself and my background, including my political views (which were basically non-existent). Then he began to explain the job. "We work on influencing people's opinions here," is how he described it. The company's clients paid them to post on Internet message boards and popular chatrooms, as well as in gaming forums and social networks like Facebook and MySpace. Who were these clients? "Oh, various people," he said vaguely. "Sometimes private companies, sometimes political groups." Satisfied that my political views were not strong, he said I would be assigned to political work. "The best people for this type of job are people like you, without strong views," he said with a laugh. "It might seem counterintuitive, but actually we've found that to be the case." Well, OK. Fine. As long as it comes with a steady paycheck, I'd believe whatever they wanted me to believe, as the guy in Ghostbusters said.

After discussing pay (which was much better than I'd hoped) and a few other details, he then went over the need for absolute privacy and secrecy. "You can't tell anyone what we do here. Not your wife, not your dog." (I have neither, as it happens.) "We'll give you a cover story and even a phone number and a fake website you can use. You will have to tell people you are a consultant. Since your background is in tech support, that will be your cover job. Is this going to be a problem for you?" I assured him it would not. "Well, OK. Shall we get started?"

"Right now?" I asked, a bit taken aback.

"No time like the present!" he said with a hearty laugh.

////

The rest of the day was taken up with training. Another staff member, a no-nonsense woman in her thirties, was to be my trainer, and training would only last two days. "You seem like a bright guy, you'll get the hang of it pretty fast, I think," she said. And indeed, the job was easier than I'd imagined. My task was simple: I would be assigned to four different websites, with the goal of entering certain discussions and promoting a certain view. I learned later that some of the personnel were assigned to internet message boards (like me), while others worked on Facebook or chatrooms. It seems these three types of media each have different strategy for shilling, and each shill concentrates on one of the three in particular.

My task? "To support Israel and counter anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic posters." Fine with me. I had no opinions one way or another about Israel, and who likes anti-Semites and Nazis? Not me, anyway. But I didn't know too much about the topic. "That's OK," she said. "You'll pick it up as you go along. For the most part, at first, you will be doing what we call "meme-patrol." This is pretty easy. Later if you show promise, we'll train you for more complex arguments, where more in-depth knowledge is necessary."

She handed me two binders with sheets enclosed in limp plastic. The first was labeled simply "Israel" in magic-marker on the cover, and it had two sections. The first section contained basic background info on the topic. I would have to read and memorize some of this, as time went on. It had internet links for further reading, essays and talking points, and excerpts from some history books. The second, and larger, section was called "Strat" (short for "strategy") with long lists of "dialogue pairs." These were specific responses to specific postings. If a poster wrote something close to "X," we were supposed to respond with something close to "Y." "You have to mix it up a bit, though," said my trainer. "Otherwise it gets too obvious. Learn to use a thesaurus." This section also contained a number of hints for de-railing conversations that went too far away from what we were attempting. These strategies included various forms of personal attacks, complaining to the forum moderators, smearing the characters of our opponents, using images and icons effectively, and even dragging the tone of the conversation down with sexual innuendo, links to pornography, or other such things. "Sometimes we have to fight dirty," or trainer told us. "Our opponents don't hesitate to, so we can't either."

The second binder was smaller, and it contained information specific to the web sites I would be assigned to. The sites I would work were: Godlike Productions, Lunatic Outpost, CNN news, Yahoo News, and a handful of smaller sites that rotated depending on need. As stated, I was NOT assigned to work ATS (although others in my group were), which is part of the reason I am posting this here, rather than elsewhere. I wanted to post this on Godlike Productions at first, but they have banned me from even viewing that site for some reason (perhaps they are onto me?). But if somebody connected with this site can get the message to them, I think they should know about it, because that was the site I spent a good 70% of my time working on.

The site-specific info in the second binder included a brief history each site, including recent flame-wars, as well as info on what to avoid on each site so as not to get banned. It also had quite detailed info on the moderators and the most popular regged posters on each site: location (if known), personality type, topics of interest, background sketch, and even some notes on how to "push the psychological buttons" of different posters. Although I didn't work for ATS, I did see they had a lot of info on your so-called "WATS" posters here (the ones with gold borders around their edges). "Focus on the popular posters," my trainer told me. "These are the influential ones. Each of these is worth 50 to

100 of the lesser known names." Each popular poster was classified as "hostile," "friendly," or "indifferent" to my goal. We were supposed to cultivate friendship with the friendly posters as well as the mods (basically, by brownnosing and sucking up), and there were even notes on strategies for dealing with specific hostile posters. The info was pretty detailed, but not perfect in every case. "If you can convert one of the hostile posters from the enemy side to our side, you get a nice bonus. But this doesn't happen too often, sadly. So mostly you'll be attacking them and trying to smear them."

[cont below]

45

.

26

Comments Section

u/throwthrow-away avatar

throwthrow-away

OP

•

14y ago

At first, like I said, my job was "meme-patrol." This was pretty simple and repetitive; it involved countering memes and introducing new memes, and didn't demand much in-depth knowledge of the subject. Mostly just repetitive posting based on the dialogue pairs in the "Strat" section of the first binder. A lot of my job was de-railing and spamming threads that didn't go our way, or making accusations of racism and anti-Semitism. Sometimes I had to simply lie and claim a poster said something or did something "in another thread" they really hadn't said or done I felt bad about this...but in the end I felt worse about the possibility of losing the first job I'd been able to get since losing my "real" job.

The funny thing was, although I started the job with no strong opinions or political views, after a few weeks of this I became very emotionally wedded to the pro-Israel ideas I was pushing. There must be some psychological factor at work...a good salesman learns to honestly love the products he's selling, I guess. It wasn't long before my responses became fiery and passionate, and I began to learn more about the topic on my own. "This is a good sign," my trainer told me. "It means you are ready for the next step: complex debate."

The "complex debate" part of the job involved a fair amount of additional training, including memorizing more specific information about the specific posters (friendly and hostile) I'd be sparring with. Here, too, there were scripts and suggested lines of argument, but we were given more freedom. There were a lot of details to this more advanced stage of the job - everything from how to select the right avatar to how to use "demotivationals" (humorous images with black borders that one finds floating around the web). Even the proper use of images of cats was discussed. Sometimes we used faked or photo-shopped images or doctored news reports (something else that bothered me).

I was also given the job of trying to find new recruits, people "like me" who had the personality type, ability to keep a secret, basic writing/thinking skills, and desperation necessary to sign on a shell. I was less successful at this part of the job, though, and I couldn't find another in the time I was there.

After a while of doing this, I started to feel bad. Not because of the views I was pushing (as I said, I was first apolitical, then pro-Israel), but because of the dishonesty involved. If my arguments were so correct, I wondered, why did we have to do this in the first place? Shouldn't truth propagate itself naturally, rather than through, well...propaganda? And who was behind this whole operation, anyway? Who was signing my paychecks? The stress of lying to my parents and friends about being a "consultant" was also getting to me. Finally, I said enough was enough. I quit in September 2011. Since then I've been working a series of unglamorous temp office jobs for lower pay. But at least I'm not making my living lying and heckling people who come online to express their

views and exercise freedom of speech.

A few days ago I happened to be in the same neighborhood and on a whim thought I'd check out the old office. It turns out the operation is gone, having moved on. This, too, I understood, is part of their strategy: Don't stay in the same place for too long, don't keep the same name too long, move on after half a year or so. Keeping a low profile, finding new employees through word of mouth: All this is part of the skill way of life. But it is a deceptive way of life, and no matter how noble the goals (I remain pro-Israel, by the way), these sleazy means cannot be justified by the end.

This is my confession. I haven't made up my mind yet about whether I want to talk more about this, so if I don't respond to this thread, don't be angry. But I think you should know: Shills exist. They are real. They walk among you, and they pay special attention to your popular gold-bordered WATS posters. You should be aware of this. What you choose to do with this awareness is up to you.

Yours,

ExShill

April 2012

6

Travis-Touchdown

•

14y ago

How much did this pay and how can I sign up?

I can get paid for being a douche to people on the internet? I'd do it in a heartbeat.

3

u/foodforthoughts avatar

foodforthoughts

•

14y ago

This is indeed very interesting. Can you let me know where this was originally posted? I would definitely encourage the author of this to meet with an investigative journalist. This phenomenon is very important.

2

u/Tombug avatar

Tombug

•

14y ago

About a year ago a story came out about the Air Force purchasing software that enabled one of these shills to duplicate his propaganda routine so that he appeared to be many different posters so that they could really ratchet up the lies and disinfo.

All one has to do is think of the way Internet forums have destroyed the lockdown the corporate press had on the public mind. For centuries media consisted of a one way flow of information. That model has been destroyed by forums and comment sections. Lippman, Bernays, Creel and Ivy would have been scared out of their wits by this.

5

u/jdmulloy avatar

jdmulloy

•

14y ago

Relevant Dilbert Comic

2

u/SarahLee avatar

SarahLee

•

14y ago

I don't disbelieve. Remember the movie (Astro) Turf Wars and this video?

2

u/bartink avatar

bartink

•

14y ago

You said they banned you, but don't want to reveal your identity. So why try to use your former login?

1

u/McMuffin92 avatar

McMuffin92

•

14y ago

That is scary I think I have seen that shit done on the Internet and u sir have ball for coming out with this respect.

1

[deleted]

•

14y ago

But only one.

1

[deleted]

•

14y ago

This entire post is pure disinformation... He or she is using this to lull you to sleep... THINK about it people.....

1

u/poill avatar

poill

•

14y ago

I figured as much, every time the cocksuckers downvoted me.

1

[deleted]

•

14y ago

I just don't think that these sites are that damn important. I mean, shit, everyone on r/politics and /r/atheism thinks that this is the epicenter of cultural thought and debate, but the truth is very little opinion changing happens. Most the time, I'm more entrenched to the idea I started with, not less.

Honestly, when is the last time some had a significant change in opinion based on reading the comments page somewhere?

Either this guy is a Class-A troll (9/10) or someone is wasting a ton of money debating teenagers online.

-2

u/Tombug avatar

Tombug

•

14y ago

If you ever read what the fathers of modern propaganda wrote you would understand that they and the people they work for (the one percent) do consider alternative sources of information to be extremely threatening to them. You don't spend the kind of time, money and effort that they spend on lying to the public if you don't think it's important to do so.

3

[deleted]

•

14y ago

No, I believe that someone could see alternative forms of information could be important. But what you've seemed to have missed is that the mis-information spread was by the so-called '1%'. It could have been just as likely that OP (assuming he isn't trolling) was working for a liberal think tank trying to promote OWS, which ended up being very successful online. There is just as much mis-information and exaggerations spread by the liberals, and /r/politics is a great example of that.

1

1 more reply

u/Lawtonfogle avatar

Lawtonfogle

•

14y ago

Look how much people pay for advertisements that end up doing so little in most cases. They have the psychology behind this worked out and it works.

Now the funny part is, you might just be one of those people, trying to discredit this as being a problem to help your job. Sorry, no bonus today for you (even though in reality you are probably someone who actually needs the bonus).

0

[deleted]

•

14y ago

Yeah buddy, every time someone disagrees with you on the internet, it's not because they have a legitimate complaint, no. They actually agree with you but are PAID by the DRACONIAN BUSINESSES to 'derail' your awesome, totally not pointless online conversations. Also, OP totally isn't lying here, too. Why would he, look at how much he wrote! Who would lie on the internet, anyway?

0

u/Lawtonfogle avatar

Lawtonfogle

•

14y ago

I do wonder if the things I am saying are on that list of scripted responses are not. It makes me almost want to go off topic just so I know you aren't following the script anymore.

3

[deleted]

•

14y ago

Please, please, please don't be fucking serious.

3

Continue this thread

[deleted]

•

14y ago

So you're the corporate shill they sent to counter this post.

2

[deleted]

•

14y ago

Oh no, you've caught me. Now Reddit will be able to CHANGE THE WORLD through their creative use of meme's and calling Republicans evil.

DAMN YOU, BRAVE REDDITORS.

1

Continue this thread

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Americans See a Government That Can't Solve Their Problems

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

2mo ago

Americans See a Government That Can't Solve Their Problems

r/politics - Americans See a Government That Can't Solve Their Problems

wsj

203 upvotes · 78 comments

Winning with misinformation: New research identifies link between endorsing easily disproven claims and prioritizing symbolic strength

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

3mo ago

Winning with misinformation: New research identifies link between endorsing easily disproven claims and prioritizing symbolic strength

r/politics - Winning with misinformation: New research identifies link between endorsing easily disproven claims and prioritizing symbolic strength

theconversation

41 upvotes · 7 comments

Trump Named in New Epstein Files Published by Justice Department

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Trump Named in New Epstein Files Published by Justice Department

r/politics - Trump Named in New Epstein Files Published by Justice Department

time

42K upvotes · 1.9K comments

Trump Watched as Girl's Newborn was Murdered & Dumped in Lake, Epstein Document Says: "He was Present When My Uncle Murdered My Newborn Child."

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

5d ago

Trump Watched as Girl's Newborn was Murdered & Dumped in Lake, Epstein Document Says: "He was Present When My Uncle Murdered My Newborn Child."
r/politics - Trump Watched as Girl's Newborn was Murdered & Dumped in Lake, Epstein Document Says: "He was Present When My Uncle Murdered My Newborn Child."
lgbtqnation
42K upvotes · 2K comments
Epstein Said Trump Shared Love of Young Girls in Apparent Suicide Note
r/politics icon
r/politics
•
7d ago
Epstein Said Trump Shared Love of Young Girls in Apparent Suicide Note
r/politics - Epstein Said Trump Shared Love of Young Girls in Apparent Suicide Note
newrepublic
34K upvotes · 2.1K comments
Trump Yelled 'My Friends Will Get Hurt' at Marjorie Taylor Greene for Threatening to Name Epstein Abusers, She Claims
r/politics icon
r/politics
•
15h ago
Trump Yelled 'My Friends Will Get Hurt' at Marjorie Taylor Greene for Threatening to Name Epstein Abusers, She Claims
r/politics - Trump Yelled 'My Friends Will Get Hurt' at Marjorie Taylor Greene for Threatening to Name Epstein Abusers, She Claims
people
30K upvotes · 941 comments
Crocs sues Trump administration, seeking \$54 million tariff refund
r/politics icon
r/politics
•
5d ago
Crocs sues Trump administration, seeking \$54 million tariff refund
r/politics - Crocs sues Trump administration, seeking \$54 million tariff refund
cbsnews
29K upvotes · 666 comments
Purported Epstein Letter To Larry Nassar Says 'Our President' Loved 'Young, Nubile Girls'
r/politics icon
r/politics
•
7d ago
Purported Epstein Letter To Larry Nassar Says 'Our President' Loved 'Young, Nubile Girls'
r/politics - Purported Epstein Letter To Larry Nassar Says 'Our President' Loved 'Young, Nubile Girls'
huffpost
28K upvotes · 1K comments
Trump Posts Nearly 200 Times in Unhinged Christmas Day Spree
r/politics icon
r/politics
•
4d ago
Trump Posts Nearly 200 Times in Unhinged Christmas Day Spree
r/politics - Trump Posts Nearly 200 Times in Unhinged Christmas Day Spree
thedailybeast
27K upvotes · 1.8K comments
James Talarico says the biggest 'welfare queens' in America are 'the giant corporations that don't pay a penny in income taxes'
r/politics icon
r/politics
•
4d ago

James Talarico says the biggest 'welfare queens' in America are 'the giant corporations that don't pay a penny in income taxes'
r/politics - James Talarico says the biggest 'welfare queens' in America are 'the giant corporations that don't pay a penny in income taxes'
fortune

27K upvotes · 498 comments

Trump's doctors are monitoring "the progress of his dementia and/or strokes," psychologist says

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

Trump's doctors are monitoring "the progress of his dementia and/or strokes," psychologist says

r/politics - Trump's doctors are monitoring "the progress of his dementia and/or strokes," psychologist says

lgbtqnation

25K upvotes · 1.2K comments

The Worst Thing About Elon Musk Is That He Got Away With All of It | His reign of terror didn't end after he bought the 2024 election.

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

18h ago

The Worst Thing About Elon Musk Is That He Got Away With All of It | His reign of terror didn't end after he bought the 2024 election.

r/politics - The Worst Thing About Elon Musk Is That He Got Away With All of It | His reign of terror didn't end after he bought the 2024 election.

newrepublic

25K upvotes · 948 comments

FBI tip alleged Trump witnessed Epstein victim's baby being killed, dumped in Lake Michigan

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

2d ago

FBI tip alleged Trump witnessed Epstein victim's baby being killed, dumped in Lake Michigan

r/politics - FBI tip alleged Trump witnessed Epstein victim's baby being killed, dumped in Lake Michigan

snopes

24K upvotes · 989 comments

Maga's biggest fear is coming true and Trump won't survive it

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

Maga's biggest fear is coming true and Trump won't survive it

r/politics - Maga's biggest fear is coming true and Trump won't survive it

co

24K upvotes · 2.1K comments

Arizona cancels medical debt for almost half-a-million residents

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

5d ago

Arizona cancels medical debt for almost half-a-million residents

r/politics - Arizona cancels medical debt for almost half-a-million residents

knau

24K upvotes · 586 comments

Epstein Survivor Calls for Impeachment of Donald Trump

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Epstein Survivor Calls for Impeachment of Donald Trump

r/politics - Epstein Survivor Calls for Impeachment of Donald Trump

waaytv

23K upvotes · 537 comments

Trump tariffs blamed as bankruptcies reach 15-year peak

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

1d ago

Trump tariffs blamed as bankruptcies reach 15-year peak

r/politics - Trump tariffs blamed as bankruptcies reach 15-year peak

co

23K upvotes · 666 comments

House Republican: 'You cannot be America first and pro-Russia'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

2d ago

House Republican: 'You cannot be America first and pro-Russia'

r/politics - House Republican: 'You cannot be America first and pro-Russia'

thehill

21K upvotes · 505 comments

Justice Department says filming immigration raids is 'domestic terrorism'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

4d ago

Justice Department says filming immigration raids is 'domestic terrorism'

r/politics - Justice Department says filming immigration raids is 'domestic terrorism'

reason

21K upvotes · 1.1K comments

An HIV expert at the CDC was asked to scrub data on trans people. He quit instead. "I thought about my transgender patients and how I would face them."

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

3d ago

An HIV expert at the CDC was asked to scrub data on trans people. He quit instead. "I thought about my transgender patients and how I would face them."

r/politics - An HIV expert at the CDC was asked to scrub data on trans people. He quit instead. "I thought about my transgender patients and how I would face them."

lgbtqnation

20K upvotes · 534 comments

FBI permanently closing HQ at J. Edgar Hoover Building, Kash Patel announces

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

3d ago

FBI permanently closing HQ at J. Edgar Hoover Building, Kash Patel announces

r/politics - FBI permanently closing HQ at J. Edgar Hoover Building, Kash Patel announces

fox5dc

19K upvotes · 1.2K comments

Some Epstein file redactions are being undone with hacks

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Some Epstein file redactions are being undone with hacks

r/politics - Some Epstein file redactions are being undone with hacks

theguardian

19K upvotes · 994 comments

DOJ Epstein records reference Trump in Kiefer, Oklahoma death claim: A newly released Justice Department document includes allegations involving Donald Trump and a woman whose death was reported in Oklahoma.

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

DOJ Epstein records reference Trump in Kiefer, Oklahoma death claim: A newly released Justice Department document includes allegations involving Donald Trump and a woman whose death was reported in Oklahoma.

r/politics - DOJ Epstein records reference Trump in Kiefer, Oklahoma death claim: A newly released Justice Department document includes allegations involving Donald Trump and a woman whose death was reported in Oklahoma.

news9

17K upvotes · 618 comments

Trump ally Laura Loomer says Democrats "were right"

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Trump ally Laura Loomer says Democrats "were right"

r/politics - Trump ally Laura Loomer says Democrats "were right"

newsweek

15K upvotes · 908 comments

Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

r/politics - Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

thedailybeast

15K upvotes · 419 comments

Community Info Section

r/politics

Join

Politics

/r/Politics is for news and discussion about U.S. politics.

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 4, 2012

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2012

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2012

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

A very interesting insight into how certain hidden companies hire individuals to derail discussions, push political propaganda and specific views on the Internet - and their methods of doing so. I wonder how many of these we have on reddit? :

r/politics

Open menu

r/politics

Search in r/politics

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/politics icon

Go to politics

r/politics

•

14y ago

throwthrow-away

A very interesting insight into how certain hidden companies hire individuals to derail discussions, push political propaganda and specific views on the Internet - and their methods of doing so. I wonder how many of these we have on reddit?
Not written by me:

I am writing here to come out of the closet as a paid shill. For a little over six months, I was paid to spread disinformation and argue political points on the Internet. This site, ATS, was NOT one that I was assigned to post on, although other people in the same organization were paid to be here, and I assume they still walk among you. But more on this later.

I quit this job in the latter part of 2011, because I became disgusted with it, and with myself. I realized I couldn't look myself in the mirror anymore. If this confession triggers some kind of retribution against me, so be it. Part of being a real man in this world is having real values that you stand up for, no matter what the consequences.

My story begins in early 2011. I had been out of work for almost a year after losing my last job in tech support. Increasingly desperate and despondent, I jumped at the chance when a former co-worker called me up and said she had a possible lead for me. "It is an unusual job, and one that requires secrecy. But the pay is good. And I know you are a good writer, so its something you are suited for." (Writing has always been a hobby for me). She gave me only a phone-number and an address, in one of the seedier parts of San Francisco, where I live. Intrigued, I asked her for the company's URL and some more info. She laughed. "They don't have a website. Or even a name. You'll see. Just tell them I referred you." Yes, it sounded suspicious, but long-term joblessness breeds desperation, and desperation has a funny way of overlooking the suspicious when it comes to putting food on the table.

The next day, I arrived at the address - the third floor in a crumbling building. The appearance of the place did not inspire confidence. After walking down a long, filthy linoleum-covered corridor lit by dimly-flickering halogen, I came to the entrance of the office itself: a crudely battered metal door with a sign that said "United Amalgamated Industries, Inc." I later learned that this "company" changed its name almost monthly, always using bland names like that which gave no strong impression of what the company actually does. Not too hopeful, I went inside. The interior was equally shabby. There were a few long tables with folding chairs, at which about a dozen people were tapping away on old, beat-up computers. There were no decorations or ornaments of any type: not even the standard-issue office ficus trees or plastic ferns. What a dump. Well, beggars can't be choosers.

The manager, a balding man in his late forties, rose from the only stand-alone desk in the room and came forward with an easy smile. "You must be Chris. Yvette [my ex-co-worker] told me you'd be coming." [Not our real names]. "Welcome. Let me tell you a little about what we do." No interview, nothing. I later learned they took people based solely on referral, and that the people making the referrals, like my ex-colleague Yvette, were trained to pick out candidates based on several factors including ability to keep one's mouth shut, basic writing skills, and desperation for work.

We sat down at his desk and he began by asking me a few questions about myself

and my background, including my political views (which were basically non-existent). Then he began to explain the job. "We work on influencing people's opinions here," is how he described it. The company's clients paid them to post on Internet message boards and popular chatrooms, as well as in gaming forums and social networks like Facebook and MySpace. Who were these clients? "Oh, various people," he said vaguely. "Sometimes private companies, sometimes political groups." Satisfied that my political views were not strong, he said I would be assigned to political work. "The best people for this type of job are people like you, without strong views," he said with a laugh. "It might seem counterintuitive, but actually we've found that to be the case." Well, OK. Fine. As long as it comes with a steady paycheck, I'd believe whatever they wanted me to believe, as the guy in Ghostbusters said.

After discussing pay (which was much better than I'd hoped) and a few other details, he then went over the need for absolute privacy and secrecy. "You can't tell anyone what we do here. Not your wife, not your dog." (I have neither, as it happens.) "We'll give you a cover story and even a phone number and a fake website you can use. You will have to tell people you are a consultant. Since your background is in tech support, that will be your cover job. Is this going to be a problem for you?" I assured him it would not. "Well, OK. Shall we get started?"

"Right now?" I asked, a bit taken aback.

"No time like the present!" he said with a hearty laugh.

////

The rest of the day was taken up with training. Another staff member, a no-nonsense woman in her thirties, was to be my trainer, and training would only last two days. "You seem like a bright guy, you'll get the hang of it pretty fast, I think," she said. And indeed, the job was easier than I'd imagined. My task was simple: I would be assigned to four different websites, with the goal of entering certain discussions and promoting a certain view. I learned later that some of the personnel were assigned to internet message boards (like me), while others worked on Facebook or chatrooms. It seems these three types of media each have different strategy for shilling, and each shill concentrates on one of the three in particular.

My task? "To support Israel and counter anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic posters." Fine with me. I had no opinions one way or another about Israel, and who likes anti-Semites and Nazis? Not me, anyway. But I didn't know too much about the topic. "That's OK," she said. "You'll pick it up as you go along. For the most part, at first, you will be doing what we call "meme-patrol." This is pretty easy. Later if you show promise, we'll train you for more complex arguments, where more in-depth knowledge is necessary."

She handed me two binders with sheets enclosed in limp plastic. The first was labeled simply "Israel" in magic-marker on the cover, and it had two sections. The first section contained basic background info on the topic. I would have to read and memorize some of this, as time went on. It had internet links for further reading, essays and talking points, and excerpts from some history books. The second, and larger, section was called "Strat" (short for "strategy") with long lists of "dialogue pairs." These were specific responses to specific postings. If a poster wrote something close to "X," we were supposed to respond with something close to "Y." "You have to mix it up a bit, though," said my trainer. "Otherwise it gets too obvious. Learn to use a thesaurus." This section also contained a number of hints for de-railing conversations that went too far away from what we were attempting. These strategies included various forms of personal attacks, complaining to the forum moderators, smearing the characters of our opponents, using images and icons effectively, and even dragging the tone of the conversation down with sexual innuendo, links to pornography, or other such things. "Sometimes we have to fight dirty," or trainer told us. "Our opponents don't hesitate to, so we can't either."

The second binder was smaller, and it contained information specific to the web sites I would be assigned to. The sites I would work were: Godlike Productions, Lunatic Outpost, CNN news, Yahoo News, and a handful of smaller sites that rotated depending on need. As stated, I was NOT assigned to work ATS (although others in my group were), which is part of the reason I am posting this here, rather than elsewhere. I wanted to post this on Godlike Productions at first, but they have banned me from even viewing that site for some reason (perhaps they are onto me?). But if somebody connected with this site can get the message to them, I think they should know about it, because that was the site I spent a good 70% of my time working on.

The site-specific info in the second binder included a brief history each site, including recent flame-wars, as well as info on what to avoid on each site so as not to get banned. It also had quite detailed info on the moderators and the most popular regged posters on each site: location (if known), personality type, topics of interest, background sketch, and even some notes on how to "push the psychological buttons" of different posters. Although I didn't work for ATS, I did see they had a lot of info on your so-called "WATS" posters here (the ones with gold borders around their edges). "Focus on the popular posters," my trainer told me. "These are the influential ones. Each of these is worth 50 to 100 of the lesser known names." Each popular poster was classified as "hostile," "friendly," or "indifferent" to my goal. We were supposed to cultivate friendship with the friendly posters as well as the mods (basically, by brownnosing and sucking up), and there were even notes on strategies for dealing with specific hostile posters. The info was pretty detailed, but not perfect in every case. "If you can convert one of the hostile posters from the enemy side to our side, you get a nice bonus. But this doesn't happen too often, sadly. So mostly you'll be attacking them and trying to smear them."

[cont below]

45

.

26

Comments Section

Single comment thread

See full discussion

[deleted]

.

14y ago

Oh no, you've caught me. Now Reddit will be able to CHANGE THE WORLD through their creative use of meme's and calling Republicans evil.

DAMN YOU, BRAVE REDDITORS.

1

[deleted]

.

14y ago

Change the world. Brave.

It's a good message. Oh...you mean you wrote more than that?

My bad.

1

[deleted]

.

14y ago

I'm soRry, are yOu haviNg trouble reading what I'm writting? Please, forgive me, I will only use bold text when it is AbsoluTely necessary to understand the

message that I'm telling.

1
[deleted]

•

14y ago

That's ok! When I'm writting I sometimes use bold, although I never bring Ru Paul into it.

1

Continue this thread

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Americans See a Government That Can't Solve Their Problems

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

2mo ago

Americans See a Government That Can't Solve Their Problems

r/politics - Americans See a Government That Can't Solve Their Problems

wsj

203 upvotes · 78 comments

Winning with misinformation: New research identifies link between endorsing easily disproven claims and prioritizing symbolic strength

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

3mo ago

Winning with misinformation: New research identifies link between endorsing easily disproven claims and prioritizing symbolic strength

r/politics - Winning with misinformation: New research identifies link between endorsing easily disproven claims and prioritizing symbolic strength

theconversation

41 upvotes · 7 comments

Trump Named in New Epstein Files Published by Justice Department

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Trump Named in New Epstein Files Published by Justice Department

r/politics - Trump Named in New Epstein Files Published by Justice Department

time

42K upvotes · 1.9K comments

Trump Watched as Girl's Newborn was Murdered & Dumped in Lake, Epstein Document Says: "He was Present When My Uncle Murdered My Newborn Child."

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

5d ago

Trump Watched as Girl's Newborn was Murdered & Dumped in Lake, Epstein Document Says: "He was Present When My Uncle Murdered My Newborn Child."

r/politics - Trump Watched as Girl's Newborn was Murdered & Dumped in Lake, Epstein Document Says: "He was Present When My Uncle Murdered My Newborn Child."

lgbtqnation

42K upvotes · 2K comments

Epstein Said Trump Shared Love of Young Girls in Apparent Suicide Note

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Epstein Said Trump Shared Love of Young Girls in Apparent Suicide Note

r/politics - Epstein Said Trump Shared Love of Young Girls in Apparent Suicide Note

newrepublic

34K upvotes · 2.1K comments

Trump Yelled 'My Friends Will Get Hurt' at Marjorie Taylor Greene for Threatening to Name Epstein Abusers, She Claims

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

15h ago

Trump Yelled 'My Friends Will Get Hurt' at Marjorie Taylor Greene for Threatening to Name Epstein Abusers, She Claims

r/politics - Trump Yelled 'My Friends Will Get Hurt' at Marjorie Taylor Greene for Threatening to Name Epstein Abusers, She Claims

people

30K upvotes · 941 comments

Crocs sues Trump administration, seeking \$54 million tariff refund

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

5d ago

Crocs sues Trump administration, seeking \$54 million tariff refund

r/politics - Crocs sues Trump administration, seeking \$54 million tariff refund

cbsnews

29K upvotes · 666 comments

Purported Epstein Letter To Larry Nassar Says 'Our President' Loved 'Young, Nubile Girls'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Purported Epstein Letter To Larry Nassar Says 'Our President' Loved 'Young, Nubile Girls'

r/politics - Purported Epstein Letter To Larry Nassar Says 'Our President' Loved 'Young, Nubile Girls'

huffpost

28K upvotes · 1K comments

Trump Posts Nearly 200 Times in Unhinged Christmas Day Spree

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

4d ago

Trump Posts Nearly 200 Times in Unhinged Christmas Day Spree

r/politics - Trump Posts Nearly 200 Times in Unhinged Christmas Day Spree

thedailybeast

27K upvotes · 1.8K comments

James Talarico says the biggest 'welfare queens' in America are 'the giant corporations that don't pay a penny in income taxes'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

4d ago

James Talarico says the biggest 'welfare queens' in America are 'the giant corporations that don't pay a penny in income taxes'

r/politics - James Talarico says the biggest 'welfare queens' in America are 'the giant corporations that don't pay a penny in income taxes'

fortune

27K upvotes · 498 comments

Trump's doctors are monitoring "the progress of his dementia and/or strokes," psychologist says

r/politics icon
r/politics

•

6d ago

Trump's doctors are monitoring "the progress of his dementia and/or strokes," psychologist says

r/politics - Trump's doctors are monitoring "the progress of his dementia and/or strokes," psychologist says

lgbtqnation

25K upvotes · 1.2K comments

The Worst Thing About Elon Musk Is That He Got Away With All of It | His reign of terror didn't end after he bought the 2024 election.

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

18h ago

The Worst Thing About Elon Musk Is That He Got Away With All of It | His reign of terror didn't end after he bought the 2024 election.

r/politics - The Worst Thing About Elon Musk Is That He Got Away With All of It | His reign of terror didn't end after he bought the 2024 election.

newrepublic

25K upvotes · 948 comments

FBI tip alleged Trump witnessed Epstein victim's baby being killed, dumped in Lake Michigan

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

2d ago

FBI tip alleged Trump witnessed Epstein victim's baby being killed, dumped in Lake Michigan

r/politics - FBI tip alleged Trump witnessed Epstein victim's baby being killed, dumped in Lake Michigan

snopes

24K upvotes · 989 comments

Maga's biggest fear is coming true and Trump won't survive it

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

Maga's biggest fear is coming true and Trump won't survive it

r/politics - Maga's biggest fear is coming true and Trump won't survive it

co

24K upvotes · 2.1K comments

Arizona cancels medical debt for almost half-a-million residents

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

5d ago

Arizona cancels medical debt for almost half-a-million residents

r/politics - Arizona cancels medical debt for almost half-a-million residents

knau

24K upvotes · 586 comments

Epstein Survivor Calls for Impeachment of Donald Trump

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Epstein Survivor Calls for Impeachment of Donald Trump

r/politics - Epstein Survivor Calls for Impeachment of Donald Trump

waaytv

23K upvotes · 537 comments

Trump tariffs blamed as bankruptcies reach 15-year peak

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

1d ago

Trump tariffs blamed as bankruptcies reach 15-year peak

r/politics - Trump tariffs blamed as bankruptcies reach 15-year peak
co

23K upvotes · 666 comments

House Republican: 'You cannot be America first and pro-Russia'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

2d ago

House Republican: 'You cannot be America first and pro-Russia'

r/politics - House Republican: 'You cannot be America first and pro-Russia'
thehill

21K upvotes · 505 comments

Justice Department says filming immigration raids is 'domestic terrorism'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

4d ago

Justice Department says filming immigration raids is 'domestic terrorism'

r/politics - Justice Department says filming immigration raids is 'domestic
terrorism'

reason

21K upvotes · 1.1K comments

An HIV expert at the CDC was asked to scrub data on trans people. He quit
instead. "I thought about my transgender patients and how I would face them."

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

3d ago

An HIV expert at the CDC was asked to scrub data on trans people. He quit

instead. "I thought about my transgender patients and how I would face them."

r/politics - An HIV expert at the CDC was asked to scrub data on trans people.

He quit instead. "I thought about my transgender patients and how I would face
them."

lgbtqnation

20K upvotes · 534 comments

FBI permanently closing HQ at J. Edgar Hoover Building, Kash Patel announces

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

3d ago

FBI permanently closing HQ at J. Edgar Hoover Building, Kash Patel announces

r/politics - FBI permanently closing HQ at J. Edgar Hoover Building, Kash Patel
announces

fox5dc

19K upvotes · 1.2K comments

Some Epstein file redactions are being undone with hacks

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Some Epstein file redactions are being undone with hacks

r/politics - Some Epstein file redactions are being undone with hacks

theguardian

19K upvotes · 994 comments

DOJ Epstein records reference Trump in Kiefer, Oklahoma death claim: A newly

released Justice Department document includes allegations involving Donald Trump
and a woman whose death was reported in Oklahoma.

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

DOJ Epstein records reference Trump in Kiefer, Oklahoma death claim: A newly released Justice Department document includes allegations involving Donald Trump and a woman whose death was reported in Oklahoma.

r/politics - DOJ Epstein records reference Trump in Kiefer, Oklahoma death claim: A newly released Justice Department document includes allegations involving Donald Trump and a woman whose death was reported in Oklahoma.
news9

17K upvotes · 618 comments

Trump ally Laura Loomer says Democrats "were right"

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

7d ago

Trump ally Laura Loomer says Democrats "were right"

r/politics - Trump ally Laura Loomer says Democrats "were right"

newsweek

15K upvotes · 908 comments

Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

r/politics icon

r/politics

•

6d ago

Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

r/politics - Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

thedailybeast

15K upvotes · 419 comments

Community Info Section

r/politics

Join

Politics

/r/Politics is for news and discussion about U.S. politics.

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 4, 2012

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2012

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2012

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

The Chevron Tapes: Video Shows Oil Giant Allegedly Covering Up Amazon

Contamination : r/worldnews

Open menu

r/worldnews

Search in r/worldnews

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/worldnews icon

Go to worldnews

r/worldnews

•

11y ago

fosterlynch

The Chevron Tapes: Video Shows Oil Giant Allegedly Covering Up Amazon Contamination
r/worldnews - The Chevron Tapes: Video Shows Oil Giant Allegedly Covering Up Amazon Contamination
news.vice.com

Open
2.3K

.

264

Comments Section

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Expect PR bullshit any minute now. I occasionally share this comment I made a while back on threads I think might be swamped by PR Workers -

Former PR worker here, 99% of our job is to convince people that something that is fucking them over is actually good for them. The whole concept of 'shills' has somehow become a conspiracy theory when in reality it's just PR workers who are paid by a company to defend their product/service. My last job was defending fracking.

Anytime a post containing keywords was submitted to a popular website we were notified and it was our job to just list off talking points and debate the most popular comments. Fracking was an easy one to defend because you could paint people as anti-science if they were against it. The science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe, so you just focus on this point. You willfully ignore the fact that fracking is done by people who almost never do it properly and are always looking to cut corners.

Your talking points usually contain branching arguments if people try to debate back. For example my next point would be to bring up that these companies are regulated so they couldn't cut corners or they would be fined, all the while knowing that these agencies are either underfunded or have been captured by the very industry they are trying to regulate.

The final talking point, if someone called you out on all your counterpoints, was to simply try to paint them as a wackjob. Suggest they are crazy for thinking agencies who are supposed to protect them have been bought and paid for. Bring up lizard people to muddy the waters. A lot of people will quickly distance themselves from something if it is accused of being a conspiracy theory, and a lot of them are stupid enough that you can convince them that believing businesses conspiring to break the law to gain profit is literally the same as believing in aliens and bigfoot.

Edit: Just to clarify I am not an expert in the field of fracking, I am just a PR worker who worked on a fracking campaign and used it as an example. I got into a few heated debates about fracking in replies to this comment and some things I said might be wrong because as I said I am not an expert. I don't want this to take away from the actual point of this comment which is to make people aware of PR workers and how they try to sway online discussions.

971

gliscameria

•

11y ago

Effective. Now the top comment is about PR and not about this horrid shit these people are doing.

312

u/idiotseparator avatar
idiotseparator

•

11y ago

The skills are getting more and more sophisticated.

121

14 more replies

u/spasticbadger avatar
spasticbadger

•

11y ago

Well it is now that you have turned the conversation towards PR and not discussing the awful situation in the Amazon... See how it works? Here is the video for those who want to see it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l618BhvWkz4>
It's fucking disgusting.

32

3 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Wierd how now im looking at all comments diferenty tho.

http://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/3243a0/as_promised_anonymous_delivers_names_of_officers/cq7ob71

Is this guy whos been on reddit for 22 days part of some politician or corporate asshole PR plan to make us hate cop unions? I work for a state department that lost its union, It sucks BTW. Is someone going to call me out on being some tin foil hat wearing crazy alien lover?

I dont know what to think anymore.

8

6 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Part of the horrid shit these people are doing is shill PR, and I thank this guy for having the guts to expose it.

3

2 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Glad you said former, because what you were doing was pretty scummy.

86

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Yep no doubt thats why I like to call these people out and spread awareness when I can.

76

7 more replies

8 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

It's not a conspiracy. Shills crawl this site like a parasite ridden dog.

<http://ro.ecu.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=isw>

28

u/BP_Public_Relations avatar

BP_Public_Relations

•

11y ago

You're imagining things. Why not imagine them while enjoying the pristine beaches of a fully recovered Gulf that may be better looking than ever?

14

6 more replies

keito

•

11y ago

One question... How do you sleep at night?

3

Netprincess

•

11y ago

Waves to the many PR punks swaying the masses to slowly kill themselves .

3

u/BP_Public_Relations avatar

BP_Public_Relations

•

11y ago

Jesus, Tom, you're posting drunk again. This is why you were let go, you know this isn't appropriate behaviour.

I know we're supposed to stick together, mate, but you're going to have a bit of a struggle in the business if you keep this up.

Maybe it's time to grab a seat, sit back, and wait for things to blow over.

5

u/Other_Dog avatar

Other_Dog

•

11y ago

Thank you.

This is an incredibly important post, and every single person on reddit should read it and understand its implications.

I want this comment to be at the top of every thread where monied interests might have a concern. It infuriates me that this goes on, and the average redditor either doesn't know about it, or for some idiotic reason doesn't think it matters.

8

grubber26

•

11y ago

So how accurate was Thank You For Smoking? One of my favourite films. Obviously

had the Hollywood treatment, but the whole shill factory feel seemed to ring true.

4

1 more reply
Sleekery

•

11y ago

This, people, is what is called "poisoning the well". You're basically declaring that people who disagree with you are paid shills of the companies in question.

5

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Not the case. In another comment I point out that most people who are accused of being 'shills' are not, lunatic conspiracy theorists have poisoned this well by accusing anyone and everyone of being a shill so now the entire concept of PR workers doing PR has almost become a conspiracy in itself. I'm just pointing out that actual 'shills' are just PR workers and they are active on reddit.

3

3 more replies
u/Counter-Propaganda avatar
Counter-Propaganda

•

11y ago

As somebody who has seen both sides, what do you think the public do to combat well-funded and well-coordinated PR machines other than using the same tactics and creating the same sorts of canned, branching arguments to be used in debates against PR workers?

8

[deleted]

•

11y ago

I don't think you can do anything to combat it. The whole purpose of the PR isn't to win the debate, it's to create the illusion of a debate so people who on the fence remain undecided which in turn prolongs the government implementing regulation etc.

My advice to people who fall victim to PR misinformation is to view things more critical. Read up on logical fallacies which will help you not be a victim of them. A key one PR people use and many people fall for is known as "Appeal to authority" where they quote a person from an official agency as having said something. Most people are rational enough to know these 'official' stances can easily be corrupted but many people are happy to just accept it without question.

40

16 more replies
u/oneofmanyshills avatar
oneofmanyshills

•

11y ago

I've been trying to combat shills for a long time now.

In the end, you have to simply remember your end-game, which is convincing others of your side of the argument.

Realize how their canned, branching arguments work and simply respond to it with a convincing argument and try to win over your audience.

The thing about arguing is that not everybody can be convinced by raw facts and logic alone - although try to incorporate them, often you have to go down to their level - redirect their absurdities back at them.

Copy-paste their argument and change a few words to suit your needs. For example -

https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/31ckm4/surveillance_video_shows_former_bethel_police/cq0wd0l?context=3

I've become a sort of counter-propagandist but a propagandist non-the-less. I don't get paid for it, I'm just sick of people being brainwashed without somebody there to counter the lies and misleading statements.

Typically if you can back up your claims with hard facts and provide a generally more convincing argument with the truth, you'll win the battle.

Also keep in mind the fact that PR == Propaganda. Coming straight from the guy who coined the term -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dtg-qFPYDE>

It's only because the Germans and the war 'dirtied' the word that they came up with another term for it.

For a more in-depth look at the subject, The Century of the Self by Adam Curtis (9.0 on IMDB) is a great primer.

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-century-of-the-self/>

20

1 more reply

2 more replies

u/GeorgePantsMcG avatar

GeorgePantsMcG

•

11y ago

TIL. I have most likely, many times, fought with PR assholes on reddit.

2

1 more reply

u/aaaaaaaaarrrrrgh avatar

aaaaaaaaarrrrrgh

•

11y ago

Fracking was an easy one to defend because you could paint people as anti-science if they where against it. The science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe, so you just focus on this point. You willfully ignore the fact that fracking is done by people who almost never do it properly and are always looking to cut corners.

Your talking points usually contain branching arguments if people try to debate back. For example my next point would be to bring up that these companies are regulated so they couldn't cut corners or they would be fined, all the while knowing that these agencies are either underfunded or have been captured by the very industry they are trying to regulate.

This sounds a lot like nuclear power... safe if it were done correctly, but instead we have nuclear waste barrels where literally half of the barrel is completely gone from rust.

2

1 more reply
[deleted]

•

11y ago

Thanks for the insight; my only counterpoint is with "the science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe"... earthquakes and tremors have increased 2 to 100 times around fracking sites (usually on the higher end), and I can't imagine that injecting tons of water into the earth won't cause some sort of imbalance or movement; water poisoning aside, pressurizing/liquifying substrate will have a rippling effect.

2

lalala253

•

11y ago

I bet you are PR people paid by those anti fracking communities.

5

u/PoopyParade avatar

PoopyParade

•

11y ago

Yeah because historically, environmentalist groups have always been well funded

8

11 more replies

u/VisserCheney avatar

VisserCheney

•

11y ago

Do these accounts typically have a history of general posts too? Or can they be identified by their history of skill-only posts?

I'd imagine the former is true these days.

3

[deleted]

•

11y ago

It's confusing because a lot of people are not PR workers but simply just trolls or people who believed our talking points. PR workers tend to take two different routes when spreading false information.

There are those who do it subtlety which requires using the account for other things besides PR. These ones are the hardest to detect depending on how often they spread their talking points but their comment history usually consists of a bunch of comments spreading their misinformation, a few comments on a random subreddit like r/nfl or something else the interests them outside of work, and then more comments spreading misinformation.

The other approach is more in your face. Every comment the person posts is misinfo. In a lot of cases they will even make their own subreddit where they and their sock accounts/other PR workers promote this misinfo. They usually refer to themselves as shills just to get inside your head. Their tactic is to make it so obvious they are working PR that you actually begin to question

whether they actually are. I think the subreddit r/buttcoin seems like one of these, a lot of the mods refer to themselves as shills and most spend all their time trashing bitcoin. This to me screams PR or mental illness.

4

1 more reply
u/DeFex avatar
DeFex

•

11y ago
Got fired for typing "suppose to" I hope.

3

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

11y ago
u/Pardonme23 avatar
Pardonme23

•

11y ago
Go over to r/conservative and have a discussion about fracking there. Can you guess what you'll find?

2

u/pimpmaschine avatar
pimpmaschine

•

11y ago
Sounds exactly like what has happened to me time and time again. And I knew these fucktards were getting paid. Nobody in their right mind would defend some of the things these people fight for.

2

u/intisun avatar
intisun

•

11y ago
Does that mean I could get paid whenever I counter anti-GMO or anti-vaccine arguments? Hey, where's my check?

3

Demopublican

•

11y ago
The science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe

For all we know you're being paid to defend fracking, shill.

2

1 more reply
shillsgonnashill

•

11y ago
Shills gonna shill.

2

u/deadlast avatar
deadlast

•

11y ago

The release of the videos is itself PR bullshit--specifically, the strategy of Donziger, the plaintiffs' lawyer representing the Ecuadorians. Donziger and his hedge fund investors stand to make hundreds of millions in attorneys' fees from the Ecuadorian judgment if it can be enforced in U.S. court.

A federal district court judge found that Donziger had violated the RICO Act by trying to shakedown Chevron with fabricated scientific evidence, forged documents, coercion, and bribery of Ecuadorian judicial officials. Link to 400+ page ruling describing in detail Donziger's extensive fraud.

A Judge Kaplan observed,

Donziger is intelligent, resourceful, and a master of public and media relations. An extensive public relations and media campaign has been part of his strategy from early days, and it continues. Among its objectives has been to shift the focus from the fraud on Chevron and the Lago Agrio court to the environmental harm that Donziger and the LAPs claim was done in the Orienté. Indeed, that was a principal focus of defendants' case at trial and of their post-trial briefing. But one should not be distracted from the issues actually presented in this case.

Why are these videos being publicly released now, when plaintiff's counsel (purportedly) has had them since 2011? Because this month, oral argument will be held on Donziger's appeal of the district court's order preventing him from profiting from his fraud .

Amazon Watch, the NGO cited in the VICE article? Nothing but a mouthpiece:

Another central player in Donziger's publicity campaign was Amazon Watch, an NGO that declares a dedication to protecting the rainforest and the indigenous groups that inhabit it.¹⁵⁴ Amazon Watch and various of its staff - including Atossa Soltani, its founder and executive director, and Mitchell Anderson, a "field consultant" - worked with Donziger and others on the LAP team to support and publicize the lawsuit and to pressure Chevron. To that end, the organization collaborated with the LAPs to lobby regulatory agencies and elected officials,¹⁵⁵ sought support among Chevron shareholders for a settlement,¹⁵⁶ and sought media attention through press releases.

Although Amazon Watch's public materials did not bear Donziger's name, Donziger himself drafted many Amazon Watch materials related to the Lago Agrio litigation.¹⁵⁸ Donziger not only controlled the content of Amazon Watch press releases pertaining to the litigation,¹⁵⁹ he drafted also complaints that Amazon Watch submitted to the SEC¹⁶⁰ and memoranda to be sent to elected officials regarding Chevron.¹⁶¹ Despite Donziger's authorship, the materials bore no outward indication of his involvement - documents drafted in whole or in substantial part by Donziger were sent on Amazon Watch letterhead and signed by Amazon Watch personnel.

In addition, in April 2005 Amazon Watch used funding from the LAPs¹⁶² to launch a website that was a key conduit for Donziger's campaign.¹⁶³ Dubbed "ChevronToxico," the website posted information about the litigation as well as materials written by Donziger, Hinton, and others, some of which included deliberately misleading statements.

Hinton, Lehane, Soltani, and others at Amazon Watch became important figures in Donziger's pressure campaign against Chevron, and their names appear throughout this case. Among the campaign's first real tasks, however, was the use of a flawed \$6 billion figure to attempt to convince Chevron that it was facing multibillion dollar exposure in Ecuador and that the time had come to settle.

You literally cannot trust what Amazon Watch says, because at Donziger's direction, they repeat statements that they know to be false. See, for example,

footnote 185 at page 46 of the order.

-1

14 more replies

View more replies

Solctice89

•

11y ago

Profits over people, profits over planet

18

[deleted]

•

11y ago

the real price of oil is much high than market value. scars that will last generations and have annihilated entire cultures off of the face of this planet. if you think renewable energy isn't worth it I don't know what to tell you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q0EcJw8BZY>

43

u/Crioca avatar

Crioca

•

11y ago

the real price of oil is much high than market value.

This is called an externality and when it comes to oil they are significant and woefully under-accounted for.

18

1 more reply

u/whalemango avatar

whalemango

•

11y ago

Good. I'm glad these oil companies will now be held accountable.

I bet they get fined HUNDREDS of dollars.

22

u/exasperatedgoat avatar

exasperatedgoat

•

11y ago

Chevron just spent \$3 million dollars on our small city's city council election.

And yet they will spend decades fighting against having to clean up properly.

4

1 more reply

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Came for the Oil Giant; found a bunch of white dudes.

3
u/burned_some_bridges avatar
burned_some_bridges

•

11y ago
Oil Giant.
Infinite money.
Infinite power.

9
u/btc3399 avatar
btc3399

•

11y ago
Sad. However, unfortunately this doesn't surprise me one bit.

9

1 more reply
[deleted]

•

11y ago
For those who are interested, RT en Español has an article and link to the video here. And the video appears to be authentic.

1
ChrisNomad

•

11y ago
This is only part of your penance just to regain some semblance of your personal honor, hope you post more.

2
[deleted]

•

11y ago
Well if they can cover it up it should be alright.

3

[deleted]

•

11y ago
u/mellowgator avatar
mellowgator

•

11y ago
i was expecting an actual giant covered in oil

3
[deleted]

•

11y ago
Environmental contamination threatens biodiversity, and biodiversity is necessary for the long-term survival of the human race. The short-term gains from this kind of environmental exploitation simply doesn't make good investment sense.

1
[deleted]

•

11y ago
Well we have our work cut out to reverse all these evil mistakes and make everything better again right?

2

u/natha105 avatar

natha105

•

11y ago

This case is so fucked up because there literally are conspiracies going on. Judges have been bribed by the "environmentalists" who actually have a massive financial interest in the outcome.

If you read through the history of the case you are going to realize you can't trust ANYTHING being put out by the "environmentalists" at this point. If they had video of the CEO of Chevron personally pouring barrels of oil over baby seals you couldn't believe it. They bribed judges, forged evidence, and now the only reasonable thing people can do is ignore everything they say. They made their bed and now they have to sleep in it.

-3

Silverfin113

•

11y ago

yeah? and where is this logic coming from?

1

[deleted]

•

11y ago

[deleted]

•

11y ago

shinyhalo

•

11y ago

Ahh, the .1%...mass murderers, earth destroyers, pedophiles...when will people learn that they are the enemy, that so much power corrupts completely.

1

jquest23

•

11y ago

This isn't a new thing , its just marketing. You hire a company to pump up the jam, all in the name of le' corporate, and they hire some people that say positive stuff about a brand, maybe some of workers agree with brand message , some don't. But its a job. Doesn't make the employee bad per say. Maybe questionable job choice , but not bad.

1

u/CurtisLeow avatar

CurtisLeow

•

11y ago

The Lago Agrio oil field has been majority owned by the Ecuadorian government since the 1970's. The vast majority of the profits went to the Ecuadorian government. It's extremely misleading to present the pollution as solely Chevron's responsibility.

-1

u/3cuador avatar

3cuador

•

11y ago

When Texaco began working in Ecuador there was little awareness on the environmental matter or regulations, that is why Ecuador with Texacos "motivation" relied on Texaco their prestige, reputation and THEIR technology as standard-setters.

So yeah after they left we inherited all their crap technology and bureaucracy.

The vast majority of profits? You mean the 2% royalties on all petroleum output later increased to 16%. yeah pretty vast.

2

u/CowboySpencer avatar

CowboySpencer

•

11y ago

Curtis, you're the finest poster to ever shade the news.

1

[deleted]

•

11y ago

The video is silly and full of lies. First - do your own research on the issue. You should know that Chevron itself did not cause any damage to Ecuador as it was a company called TEXPET. In Chevron's purchase of TEXPET in 2001 there was a clause that Chevron would not be responsible for any previous oil spills by TEXPET. On March 4, 2014, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ruled that the \$9.5 billion Ecuadorian judgment was the product of fraud and racketeering activity, finding it unenforceable.

-4

u/3cuador avatar

3cuador

•

11y ago

So Texpet sold a used gun to Chevron, and they both agreed that Chevron will not be held liable for any crime committed before the purchase? Is that what you are saying ?

What a bargain.

1

Aurisc

•

11y ago

redditors_are_racist

•

11y ago

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Impact of climate change on global migration

The role of technology in modern diplomacy

How social media influences global protests

The future of global health initiatives

How nations are tackling misinformation

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/UpliftingNews icon

r/UpliftingNews

•

3mo ago

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

2.2K upvotes · 78 comments

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/EcoUplift icon

r/EcoUplift

•

3mo ago

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/EcoUplift - Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

happyeconews

895 upvotes · 31 comments

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/Environmentalism icon

r/Environmentalism

•

3mo ago

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

2.1K upvotes · 57 comments

I'm 12. I emailed Chevron, Nestlé, and Dow about what they've done. None of them replied.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

6mo ago

I'm 12. I emailed Chevron, Nestlé, and Dow about what they've done. None of them replied.

r/climate - I'm 12. I emailed Chevron, Nestlé, and Dow about what they've done. None of them replied.

chevron

438 upvotes · 41 comments

U.S. Refining Giant Valero to Shut California Refinery

r/California_Politics icon

r/California_Politics

•

9mo ago

U.S. Refining Giant Valero to Shut California Refinery

r/California_Politics - U.S. Refining Giant Valero to Shut California Refinery oilprice

106 upvotes · 76 comments

Chevron payments make up nearly 24% of Richmond general fund, California city reveals accidentally

r/California_Politics icon

r/California_Politics

•

2mo ago

Chevron payments make up nearly 24% of Richmond general fund, California city reveals accidentally

r/California_Politics - Chevron payments make up nearly 24% of Richmond general fund, California city reveals accidentally

apnews

31 upvotes · 8 comments

Report Reveals \$2 Billion of New Financing by Big Banks for Oil and Gas in the Amazon

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

2mo ago

Report Reveals \$2 Billion of New Financing by Big Banks for Oil and Gas in the Amazon

r/climate - Report Reveals \$2 Billion of New Financing by Big Banks for Oil and Gas in the Amazon

commondreams

102 upvotes · 14 comments

How the Past 25 Years of Big Oil's Lie-Filled Ads Have Delivered 'Climate Catastrophe'

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

19d ago

How the Past 25 Years of Big Oil's Lie-Filled Ads Have Delivered 'Climate Catastrophe'

r/climate - How the Past 25 Years of Big Oil's Lie-Filled Ads Have Delivered 'Climate Catastrophe'

commondreams

270 upvotes · 18 comments

To avoid climate catastrophe, we must take on Big Oil

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

3mo ago

To avoid climate catastrophe, we must take on Big Oil

r/climate - To avoid climate catastrophe, we must take on Big Oil

co

576 upvotes · 33 comments

Sites contaminated by toxic 'forever chemicals' are much more widespread than previously thought, researchers find

r/science icon

r/science

•

4mo ago

Sites contaminated by toxic 'forever chemicals' are much more widespread than previously thought, researchers find

r/science - Sites contaminated by toxic 'forever chemicals' are much more widespread than previously thought, researchers find

northeastern

2.2K upvotes · 27 comments

Australia should adopt US policies to attract fossil fuel dollars, says chief of 'carbon major' Chevron.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

4mo ago

Australia should adopt US policies to attract fossil fuel dollars, says chief of 'carbon major' Chevron.

r/climate - Australia should adopt US policies to attract fossil fuel dollars, says chief of 'carbon major' Chevron.

theguardian

95 upvotes · 21 comments

Chevron ordered to pay more than \$740 million to restore Louisiana coast in landmark trial
r/nature

•

9mo ago

Chevron ordered to pay more than \$740 million to restore Louisiana coast in landmark trial

r/nature - Chevron ordered to pay more than \$740 million to restore Louisiana coast in landmark trial

apnews

907 upvotes · 14 comments

Exxon Urges Europe to Repeal Rules to Make Companies Track Climate Pollution | Its chief executive called the E.U. regulations one part of a “very misguided effort to kill oil.” His words followed comments by Trump administration officials criticizing Europe’s climate policies.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

3mo ago

Exxon Urges Europe to Repeal Rules to Make Companies Track Climate Pollution | Its chief executive called the E.U. regulations one part of a “very misguided effort to kill oil.” His words followed comments by Trump administration officials criticizing Europe’s climate policies.

167 upvotes · 10 comments

'Historic Mistake': Brazil Opens Up Amazon to New Oil Drilling Ahead of Global Climate Summit | “For us all to have a future, the oil industry can have no future,” said one campaigner.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

2mo ago

'Historic Mistake': Brazil Opens Up Amazon to New Oil Drilling Ahead of Global Climate Summit | “For us all to have a future, the oil industry can have no future,” said one campaigner.

r/climate - 'Historic Mistake': Brazil Opens Up Amazon to New Oil Drilling Ahead of Global Climate Summit | “For us all to have a future, the oil industry can have no future,” said one campaigner.

commondreams

218 upvotes · 10 comments

Nearly 19M Californians could lose protection from toxic ‘forever chemicals’ in tap water

r/California_Politics icon

r/California_Politics

•

18d ago

Nearly 19M Californians could lose protection from toxic ‘forever chemicals’ in tap water

56 upvotes · 7 comments

Nigerian communities to take Shell to high court over oil pollution

r/worldnews icon

r/worldnews

•

6mo ago

Nigerian communities to take Shell to high court over oil pollution

r/worldnews - Nigerian communities to take Shell to high court over oil pollution

theguardian

247 upvotes · 6 comments

California is sunsetting oil refineries without a plan for what’s next – Faced with a looming fuel crunch, some worry the state will push aside its efforts to combat climate change to keep gasoline flowing.

r/Infrastructurist icon

r/Infrastructurist

•

4mo ago

California is sunseting oil refineries without a plan for what's next – Faced with a looming fuel crunch, some worry the state will push aside its efforts to combat climate change to keep gasoline flowing.

r/Infrastructurist - California is sunseting oil refineries without a plan for what's next – Faced with a looming fuel crunch, some worry the state will push aside its efforts to combat climate change to keep gasoline flowing.

grist

60 upvotes · 88 comments

Amazon rainforest cut down to build highway for COP climate summit

r/news icon

r/news

•

10mo ago

Amazon rainforest cut down to build highway for COP climate summit

r/news - Amazon rainforest cut down to build highway for COP climate summit

co

4.1K upvotes · 182 comments

They can still give us oil

r/theclingeshowaward icon

r/theclingeshowaward

•

6mo ago

They can still give us oil

r/theclingeshowaward - They can still give us oil

1.3K upvotes · 38 comments

Guest post: How the role of carbon storage has been hugely overestimated

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

4mo ago

Guest post: How the role of carbon storage has been hugely overestimated

r/climate - Guest post: How the role of carbon storage has been hugely overestimated

carbonbrief

153 upvotes · 19 comments

Oil leak

r/Derailedbydetails icon

r/Derailedbydetails

•

4mo ago

Oil leak

60 upvotes · 10 comments

Community Info Section

r/worldnews

News

Join

World News

A place for major news from around the world, excluding US-internal news.

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 8, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

We used sock puppets in /r/netsec last year (and are sorry we did) : r/netsec

Open menu

r/netsec
Search in r/netsec
Log In

Expand user menu

Back
r/netsec icon
Go to netsec
r/netsec
•
11y ago
thinkst

We used sock puppets in /r/netsec last year (and are sorry we did)
Hi..

Last year (for quite a while) we did some digging into the area of influencing online channels (and user generated content sites) with the use of sock-puppets. (We published a paper on it & presented on the topic at 2 conferences)

The reason we did the research is simple. We believe that censorship 2.0 will take a similar form (ie. the appearance of everyone having a voice, but then controlling which voices are actually heard).

During the testing we used sock-puppets on mailing lists (and measured their effects), sock puppets on social media networks and even used simple scripts to push old news stories to front pages of news sites. Along the way we found bugs in comments systems that allowed us to steal peoples identities and mine "hidden" information, and these were reported to the respective vendors and were fixed.

We also took aim at reddit..

In this case we used our sockpuppets to vote up stories, to vote down stories and combinations of the two. Predictably we found that moving stories up and down the reddit charts were relatively easily doable (with enough machine-time) but were then relatively surprised to find that moderators are not given enough access to data to make sock-puppet hunting easy enough.

This means that even mods who clearly had incident response skills, were unable to really do the triage necessary to identify/kill malicious actors (even when malicious activity was spotted). During the research, we were able to identify sockpuppets being used to dominate comment sections of popular online new-sites, and largely attributed our ability to detect this to the fact that the comment services had reasonable API's with useful access to data.

One of our suggestions was that reddit too, should open up this sort of access to their moderators, allowing mods the ability to do reasonable investigations & correlation.

But... We did mess up..

We really should have contacted the mods once the research was complete but instead we published and moved on. (A follow up piece of work: building tools to help detect sock puppet activity remains incomplete). We know some of the mods personally and the last thing we wanted was to negatively affect them (or to screw up communities they have been working to build for so long). For this, we are truly deeply sorry. We also note that we caused some consternation in the r/netsec community itself in the few weeks that we were on it, and for this too,

we apologise. Our aim was to raise awareness on how easily such attacks could be carried out (and to init discussions on how they could be fixed). We are genuinely deeply sorry for the pain caused to both the mods and the users of r/netsec.

Edit (due to comment requests):

A copy of the slides can be seen [here](#)

A video of the presentation given at Troopers15 can be seen [here](#)

The paper can be read [here](#)

625

.

180

Comments Section

u/kim_jong_com avatar

kim_jong_com

•

11y ago

From your research paper:

As an aside, although Reddit tried hard to prevent users from seeing the actual vote scores of a post, we were able to discover a method of divining a story's score. We were able to create an oracle out of the user preference that sets the users score threshold (posts below the threshold are not visible). By repeatedly changing this threshold, we can determine whether a post's score was above or below a certain number and were able to narrow this down to an exact score.

That's an interesting technique and one I hadn't considered. I'm not sure how to defend against that except perhaps making that threshold fuzzy in the same way that the actual scores are?

84

u/catcradle5 avatar

catcradle5

•

11y ago

Yep, just seems like an oversight in not fuzzing that value as well. I don't think it would be that hard to patch. This means in some cases a user may refresh a subreddit, see a post, refresh again, see it gone, refresh again, see it again, but that's not a major issue in my opinion.

27

u/othergopher avatar

othergopher

•

11y ago

Does not sound trivial to me. If we fuzz it too much, we lose utility (scores don't matter at all). If we randomize fuzzing too often (per view, per vote, per reply etc., or some combination), it might be possible to get a hundred sample and get a good mean estimate. If we don't randomize fuzzing too often, (publicly visible) score+fuzz becomes the actual number people are interested in anyway, and nobody cares about de-noising it. So ... dunno. I'd like to know what others think.

18

4 more replies

6 more replies

galaris

•

11y ago

Can you please post the results too, I might consider forgiving you then :P

140

u/odoprasm avatar

odoprasm

•

11y ago

Yes, lets see the research

54

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

11y ago

[deleted]

•

11y ago

u/McElroy-vs-dig-dog avatar

McElroy-vs-dig-dog

•

11y ago

surprised to find that moderators are not given enough access to data to make sock-puppet hunting easy enough

Well, giving moderators access to sock puppet hunting data has some very real serious implications on privacy, so I don't find it all that surprising.

To give an example, let's assume that I start a subreddit for some fringe group. People post in the subreddit using accounts not directly tied to their identity but then one day I'm given access to see which other accounts on reddit are used by these people. It'll be game over for a lot of them.

20

11 more replies

u/soucy avatar

soucy

•

11y ago

Nice work.

We need this kind of work and disclosure to happen more not less. People here seem emotional over it but this kind of thing has serious political implications and people need to start paying attention to that.

As a follow-up:

What kind of controls do you think could be effective while balancing the need of moderators to be able to detect this behavior while not opening up contributors to profiling? Any serious solution will need to "protect the innocent".

34

5 more replies

chloeeeeeeeeee

•

11y ago

I think you should identify yourself or just link to that paper and/or those conferences.

30

DebugDucky

•

11y ago

The identity is clear(Thinkst), which is also linked in the OP.

Also: http://thinkst.com/stuff/hitb2014/HITB_Thinkst_2014_No_notes.pdf

I can't find the recording, but there's a recording of the presentation somewhere. It's a good presentation.

42

u/noxbl avatar

noxbl

•

11y ago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdaPJLJCK1M>

This one I guess

21

1 more reply

galaris

•

11y ago

Search for "Weapons of Mass Distraction – Sock Puppetry for Fun & Profit"

13

u/Omni-nsf avatar

Omni-nsf

•

11y ago

You know, we can't really come to a conclusion as to if you were actually doing research or just messing around with your buddies until we see some sort of publishing of your research.

84

10 more replies

matthewdavis

•

11y ago

r/conspiracy would have a field day with this

45

11 more replies

u/lxaa avatar

lxaa

•

11y ago

moderators are not given enough access to data to make sock-puppet hunting easy

r/netsec always hungering for more mod powers. This is yet another attempt to get them.

Step 1. Stage an event that could theoretically be solved by giving the

leadership more power.

Step 2. Report the event to make a case for getting more power.

Step 3. Admins grant mods more powers.

Step 4. Abuse said powers.

Edit: The mods found a reason to ban me now this post has faded from view.

223

u/thephoenix5 avatar
thephoenix5

•

11y ago

I think I can guess why this is the top comment....

104

u/Centime avatar
Centime

•

11y ago

I don't know what to believe anymore !

109

1 more reply
[deleted]

•

11y ago

What kind of additional powers would let them fight sock puppets? A correctly done sock puppet is indistinguishable from a normal user. Just looking at IPs or post timing might catch the script kiddies, but not the kind of truly malicious and sophisticated manipulators this research is warning about.

22

6 more replies
u/thinkst avatar
thinkst
OP

•

11y ago

For what its worth (as we mentioned in our original presentation:) we believed the r/netsec mods behaved reasonably during the testing. Unlike other mods elsewhere, they limited their reactions to what they were able to categorically prove, and limited hysteria.. They just didnt have enough info to squash us at the root.. (which should have been easily doable with more data exposed)

40

1 more reply

35 more replies
[deleted]

•

11y ago

How well did it work on big subs?

Everyone knows it's easy to game small subreddits

9

u/catcradle5 avatar
catcradle5

•

11y ago

They did it to r/worldnews as well, and were very effective. Check out the paper.

12

1 more reply
masturbathon

•

11y ago

[deleted]

0.9867

What is this?

6

u/f2u avatar
f2u

•

11y ago

Did you present your research before an independent ethics review board? If not, why?

31

u/Omni-nsf avatar
Omni-nsf

•

11y ago

Internet research does not fall under APA guidelines as it does not cause serious harm or discomfort to the subjects and does not require an IRB if it is not being performed through a university/other institution. Furthermore, this is the equivalent of a debriefing required by any and all forms of experimentation.

source: I work in a lab as a psychopharmacology researcher and another as a big data researcher

32

7 more replies
u/Deku-shrub avatar
Deku-shrub

•

11y ago

In this case we used our sockpuppets to vote up stories, to vote down stories and combinations of the two

Surely the greatest betrayal since u/Unidan/ ?

11

3 more replies
u/HumanSuitcase avatar
HumanSuitcase

•

11y ago

Genuine question, and I hope I don't come off like a dick here but, if you were (are?) going to do this again, how would you handle the situation differently with regards to informing mods and users that you are doing research?

3

1 more reply
[deleted]

•

11y ago

Ha, reddit couldn't release this data. It would reveal their own post manipulation, which is their main revenue stream. Paid AMAs, branded images, they're all just promotions.

25

[deleted]

•

11y ago

2 more replies

u/HumanSuitcase avatar

HumanSuitcase

•

11y ago

I'm not going to say that I'm terribly thrilled with how you conducted your research but if you have a research paper written I'd be interested in reading it.

7

u/askvictor avatar

askvictor

•

11y ago

Pardon my ignorance, but what is a sock puppet?

3

2 more replies

u/IForgetMyself avatar

IForgetMyself

•

11y ago

I wonder why this post is the top post on this subreddit...

4

[deleted]

•

11y ago

g0evD9ssvmG3 au,o06F42L" pTbaeZN!-iaXU rk!Q73nT0?1Mez6 OR6!BSxxNuRL?n2dT6?0aK7U4 tErw!szN"Ui kLuTc1DK zHu42 2RU,ElVay XM2THnLxNI93L,CsTqUGF J"Ugl'vgfyiu

9

u/devDorito avatar

devDorito

•

11y ago

Good research. I wonder if you wordclouded account comments on reddit with the appropriate info, act time, karma, et cetera, if the 'sock puppet' thing would be more apparent. ...

2

u/spinlocked avatar

spinlocked

•

11y ago

Last time I did this I just got fired.

2

u/HuntersAvenue avatar
HuntersAvenue

•

11y ago

Anyone have the link to r/netsec discussion when the admins stepped in?

<https://i.imgur.com/PEcLQZy.png>

2

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Werner__Herzog

•

11y ago

Next we experimented with down-voting a single post. Depending on the subreddit configuration two interesting possibilities can happen after a few (not tagged as spam) down-votes: the post gets removed from the subreddit, and added to the moderation queue for approval before being displayed again

I don't think that was possible and is possible now either. Do you have any source on that?

AFAIK these are the scenarios that could lead to the outcome you describe:

you set your subreddit to filter everything; every post has to be approved before being publicly visible

a domain is categorized as spam by reddit and put into the spam queue (it's only put into the spam queue and not visible if you set your spam filter strength to "high")

[this one is new and wasn't possible during the time you were conducting your experiments] you can set AutoModerator to automatically filter posts with a specific keyword, comments in a specific thread and I believe depending on a users username, his karma etc (more info here). Those post also have to be approved to be visible to the public.

This is not that important in the grand scheme of things, but (1) I'm curious if there's something I've missed and (2) I suppose you appreciate having publications that are factually correct as that gives your work a little bit more credibility.

2

[deleted]

•

11y ago

ethicalhack3r

•

11y ago

This explains all the down votes I was getting. Makes sense now. ;)

3

u/soucy avatar
soucy

•

11y ago

Everyone's first thought for sure. "Oh. So you guys DON'T hate me :D" LOL

2

u/reddbullish avatar

reddbullish

•

11y ago

One of our suggestions was that reddit too, should open up this sort of access to their moderators, allowing mods the ability to do reasonable investigations & correlation.

NO! in many cases mods are vindictive stalkers with no oversight and no background checks done on them. They frankly already see too much information that might let the personally identify people they dont agree with.

That is a terrible idea.

If you want to stop story manipulation then get rid of mods and provide redditors with rankings of most downvoted stories, most zeroed stories and other rankings that would bring back transparency to reddit. Also bring back real total vote counts on stories.

The fact is it is plainly obvious the owners of reddit WANT to hide and manipulate dtories other wise they would have done my recommendations years ago and never would have gotten rid of total vote count displays next to stories.

3

u/Mr-Yellow avatar

Mr-Yellow

•

11y ago

The people who wish to become mods are not the type of people I'd give any real power to. Good for free labour when needed, but not ready for any real responsibility.

0

6 more replies

u/The-Internets avatar

The-Internets

•

11y ago

Its always good form to notify sysadmins/devs of any vuln/ex with ~a weeks notice before making the data public.

But good on you for not being complete dicks about it.

2

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Is this the first time this work was published? When was this shared online for the first time?

1

u/oelsen avatar

oelsen

•

11y ago

Bruahaha. Thank you for writing that.

Objection and question: There are many other subs where "spiritual sock puppets"

are the norm. How could you detect loons just acting like loons? I think of /conspiracy or similar ventures where politics (ahem) are concerned, or /cars [e.g.!), where manipulating certain story points could result in more sales. There are many normal hive minded individuals acting like manipulators.

1

u/ProGamerGov avatar
ProGamerGov

•

11y ago

Did you guys announce that you were experimenting with Reddit at some point in the last year or two? Because I recall some group did, and I would like to know if theyou are still experimenting.

1

u/Moongrazer avatar
Moongrazer

•

11y ago

The intelligent directed use of sock puppets means that dissenting views could be pushed into obscurity, all while the pretense of an open platform for free speech is maintained

This particular quote from your paper, together with the fact that you quoted a legal scholar just paragraphs earlier, leads me to believe there is an important source you might be interested in.

This so called "dystopia/Censorship 2.0" as explained in your quote has been a known problem for legal / human rights scholars working on Free Speech for quite some time.

The most important source I can give you, is already quite old (1984), but still eminently important, clear and cuts to the heart of the matter. I used it in recent research for Human Rights on Free Speech and it held up beautifully. It can give you more insight into the systemic nature of this problem. I hope it can help you in some way.

INGBER, The Marketplace of Ideas: A Legitimizing Myth. [Duke Law Journal] [PDF]

Keep fighting the good fight!

1

Lighting

•

11y ago

So why are you posting now when your "follow up piece of work: building tools to help detect sock puppet activity remains incomplete"

Why not wait until you have an actual way to stop harm vs just show the public how to cause harm.

1

unfo

•

11y ago

people have more information and can thus independently develop protection mechanisms and not wait for these guys.

4

DebugDucky

•

11y ago

I don't see what you feel sorry about. If it wasn't you, it'd be somebody else.

And at least your research is valuable.

-2

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Comment deleted by user

10 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

Latest trends in cybersecurity threats

Practices for securing cloud environments

Effective strategies for incident response

How to build a career in information security

Essential tools for penetration testing

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

My process for setting up anonymous sockpuppet accounts.

r/OSINT icon

r/OSINT

•

6y ago

My process for setting up anonymous sockpuppet accounts.

264 upvotes · 49 comments

Have you ever been banned from a subreddit?

r/teenpoll icon

r/teenpoll

•

2mo ago

Have you ever been banned from a subreddit?

497 upvotes · 220 comments

That's it you're going on Reddit

r/Humanornot icon

r/Humanornot

•

8mo ago

That's it you're going on Reddit

r/Humanornot - That's it you're going on Reddit

192 upvotes · 40 comments

So the bots have caught on

r/Humanornot icon

r/Humanornot

•

2mo ago

So the bots have caught on

r/Humanornot - So the bots have caught on

26 upvotes · 10 comments

Can we talk abt the shit they're saying abt us online?

r/TMPOC icon

r/TMPOC

•

5mo ago

Can we talk abt the shit they're saying abt us online?

131 upvotes · 49 comments

Does anybody else get annoyed of this sub's name ?

r/Tamizhteens icon

r/Tamizhteens

•

3mo ago

Does anybody else get annoyed of this sub's name ?

r/Tamizhteens - Does anybody else get annoyed of this sub's name ?

144 upvotes · 32 comments

Wtf was this bot

r/Humanornot icon

r/Humanornot

•

1mo ago

Wtf was this bot

r/Humanornot - Wtf was this bot

3

152 upvotes · 21 comments

Is privacy a human right?

r/teenpoll icon

r/teenpoll

•

5d ago

Is privacy a human right?

274 upvotes · 26 comments

LoL, What are you trying to say Reddit 😞?

r/programminghumor icon

r/programminghumor

•

1mo ago

LoL, What are you trying to say Reddit 😞?

r/programminghumor - LoL, What are you trying to say Reddit 😞?

100 upvotes · 13 comments

WTF IS THIS REDDIT?!?!?!? MUST BAN

r/2american4you icon

r/2american4you

•

1mo ago

WTF IS THIS REDDIT?!?!?!? MUST BAN

r/2american4you - WTF IS THIS REDDIT?!?!?!? MUST BAN

109 upvotes · 16 comments



r/rs_x icon

r/rs_x

•

5mo ago



r/rs_x -

191 upvotes · 23 comments

Favorite niche subreddits?

r/rs_x icon

r/rs_x

•

2mo ago

Favorite niche subreddits?

931 upvotes · 108 comments

I did it, I beat reddit.

r/repost icon

r/repost

•

2mo ago

I did it, I beat reddit.

r/repost - I did it, I beat reddit.

26 upvotes · 6 comments

This is fun

r/teenagersbuthot icon

r/teenagersbuthot

•

8d ago

This is fun

r/teenagersbuthot - This is fun

28 upvotes · 31 comments

can the internet ever be open again???

r/ownyourintent icon

r/ownyourintent

•

3mo ago

can the internet ever be open again???

r/ownyourintent - can the internet ever be open again???

515 upvotes · 53 comments

We Deserve Privacy On The Internet

r/ReasonableFuture icon

r/ReasonableFuture

•

1mo ago

We Deserve Privacy On The Internet

r/ReasonableFuture - We Deserve Privacy On The Internet

245 upvotes · 11 comments

You OK, Reddit?

r/ihadastroke icon

r/ihadastroke

•

2mo ago

You OK, Reddit?

r/ihadastroke - You OK, Reddit?

39 upvotes · 9 comments

Day 2 of spreading misinformation online

r/Humanornot icon

r/Humanornot

•

3mo ago

Day 2 of spreading misinformation online

r/Humanornot - Day 2 of spreading misinformation online

44 upvotes · 24 comments

How can redditors better protect their privacy on the internet?

r/AskReddit icon

r/AskReddit

•

19d ago

How can redditors better protect their privacy on the internet?

26 upvotes · 17 comments

Got my own reddit (finally)

r/BenignExistence

•

1mo ago

Got my own reddit (finally)

82 upvotes · 17 comments

Yeah thanks reddit, I swiped

r/TechNope

•

3mo ago

Yeah thanks reddit, I swiped

r/TechNope - Yeah thanks reddit, I swiped

120 upvotes · 8 comments

You can block yourself in reddit

r/LetsDiscussThis icon

r/LetsDiscussThis

•

5mo ago

SPOILER

You can block yourself in reddit

65 upvotes · 48 comments

privacy?what a joke

r/Tamizhteens icon

r/Tamizhteens

•

3mo ago

privacy?what a joke

50 upvotes · 28 comments

As the flair suggests this is very serious

r/Tamizhteens icon

r/Tamizhteens

•

5mo ago

As the flair suggests this is very serious

49 upvotes · 12 comments

Community Info Section

r/netsec

Join

Technical Information Security Content & Discussion

/r/netsec is a community-curated aggregator of technical information security content. Our mission is to extract signal from the noise – to provide value to security practitioners, students, researchers, and hackers everywhere.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 7, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of June 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

Professional Bitcoin Trolls Exist : r/Bitcoin

Open menu

r/Bitcoin

Search in r/Bitcoin

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/Bitcoin icon

Go to Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin

•

11y ago

Egon_1

Professional Bitcoin Trolls Exist

r/Bitcoin - Professional Bitcoin Trolls Exist

coinfire.io

Open

25

.

109

Comments Section

u/williamdunne avatar

williamdunne

•

11y ago

Anyone willing to provide the rest of the article?

11

u/eof avatar

eof

•

11y ago

If you are a highly engaged member of any community, you've likely run into trolls in the comments of your favorite websites.

These are people who come in with off-topic comments, cursing, highly inflammatory statements, or post things that divide communities or paint them in negative ways.

The Internet is the great democratization of information, and it certainly seems that trolls are destroying the experience for many online to those casually using the Internet. Are these Internet trolls multiplying? Are people now simply given a new avenue to say the things they want but do so anonymously, prompting more "troll-like behavior," or is something else at play?

The Internet was a place to have productive conversations and open discussions regarding a myriad of topics, but that has changed for many as Internet trolling seems to be reaching new levels. Instead of open discussion and debate, it seems that many are only disrupting conversations on the Internet.

It seems that every few months, someone proclaims on reddit that paid internet trolls and shills exist in the bitcoin community.

These claims are usually met with responses from concerned community members, those saying it is garbage, and a series of questions from moderators telling the original poster to prove the claims being made. Many responses from the community insist that the Internet trolls aren't disrupting anything and that self-policing and moderation will help ensure that trolling doesn't have an impact.

While many would like to believe that Internet trolling doesn't have an impact, the data simply says otherwise. In a study funded by the National Science Foundation titled "The 'Nasty Effect': Online Incivility and Risk Perceptions of Emerging Technologies," researchers found that Internet trolling does in fact have a negative impact. This study was found that Internet trolling can sow

seeds of doubt about the materials being presented. This study offers several insights on how the online environment may shape and polarize perceptions about topics, including new technologies.

In the study, researchers set up a blog and asked participants to read a blog post they had created about a technology called nano silver. The blog post presented points detailing the benefits and potential risks of the technology and with a comments section. Half of the participants saw comments that were trolling and the other half saw a comments section displaying civil discussion taking place.

The comments displayed for both groups were of equal length, contained various perspectives, and both praised the technology and discussed the potential risks. Readers in the study group were asked how they felt about the technology before and after reading the comments.

The participants exposed to the civil discussion reported having the same beliefs about the technology after reading the comments. The participants exposed to the hostile comments reported far more polarized feelings afterwards than they had reported initially. After reading the "troll" comments, the participants reported feeling significantly more negative about the technology and its potential risks than they had previously reported prior to reading the comments.

The findings positively support the theory that Internet trolling can effectively change the perspective of others reading the material presented.

After the study was published, Popular Science removed comments from articles on the Popular Science website stating,

A politically motivated, decades-long war on expertise has eroded the popular consensus on a wide variety of scientifically validated topics. Everything, from evolution to the origins of climate change, is mistakenly up for grabs again. Scientific certainty is just another thing for two people to "debate" on television. And because comments sections tend to be a grotesque reflection of the media culture surrounding them, the cynical work of undermining bedrock scientific doctrine is now being done beneath our own stories, within a website devoted to championing science.

Even a fractious minority wields enough power to skew a reader's perception of a story.

Several months ago, Coin Fire was tipped off about a group of "internet trolls" who were being paid to disrupt conversations across the Internet about a wide variety of topics, including bitcoin. Executive Editor Mike Johnson and various members of the Coin Fire staff were highly skeptical of this initial contact.

Several members of the Coin Fire staff requested proof in the form of reddit account usernames, evidence the accounts were controlled by the individuals involved in the trolling and shilling, and researched the corporate entities that were supposedly the company name of this team.

Inbox Photo

10

u/eof avatar

eof

•

11y ago

Approximately nine months ago, we received a strange message on reddit from a user that had information regarding shilling that was taking place on the site.

It wasn't the first time our reddit account had received a strange and almost cryptic-like message, and it certainly wouldn't be the last time we saw someone declaring that paid shills and trolls existed specifically in the bitcoin subreddit.

At the time, Mike was the primary person behind Coin Fire and was overwhelmed with following a few leads regarding bitcoin merchant acceptance, so he left the message unread and without reply for several weeks. When I asked him why the message was left in the reddit inbox with nary a response for such a long time, he told me,

At the time, it was just me deciding where to spend resources and time. I was traveling, working on improving the site, and following a few other story leads. I chalked it up to a trolling itself and didn't think anything of it.

Eventually, Mike responded to the message stating that he would be open to chatting about what the person behind the statements had to say.

Inbox Photo

Believing that the story opportunity had passed, Mike noted that he hadn't received a response on BitMessage several weeks later and considered it to be a dead lead.

It wasn't until several months later when a BitMessage came in and was signed by the reddit user that the potential of a story even appeared on Coin Fire's radar. The message stated that the person on the other end wanted to make sure we could be trusted to protect his or her identity, and that they would slowly begin passing us the relevant details about the company that employed them and

the extent of shilling and trolling on the bitcoin subreddit specifically.

Over the next several months, the person on the other end would provide information to our series of highly skeptical questions regarding the operations in which they were involved. We later learned they were part of relatively small team after learning about the job via a friend.

With each set of questions and answers, it seemed that what was being shared with our team was real, but the level of skepticism was still high amongst Coin Fire team members. It wasn't until months later that the person we were communicating with opened up more and began providing further shreds of evidence.

"Ted" claims to control over 100 reddit accounts, but we've been provided evidence that only 50 or so are truly under his control. The reddit accounts he is using all have long posting histories, and each have some account length and all appear completely legitimate from a first glance. Some of the accounts were started by other members of the reddit community initially and later purchased by his employer for use in his work.

The accounts all have "vast interests" and many of them are members of the r/bitcoin subreddit, but they also contain comments and postings in several other subreddits. Many of the accounts started off primarily on a different subreddit and eventually found themselves on r/bitcoin. Oftentimes, these accounts pose as new users of the cryptocurrency or as people who are experts in other fields of banking or technology.

Some of the accounts have been crafted by Ted himself or others on his team, and attention has been paid to keep track of the various accounts, the personas created around them, and even details such as "acceptable times" to post. All accounts are shared in a system designed to help posters keep track of important details and make sure the illusion of genuine accounts is maintained.

The level of detail put behind the maintenance of accounts, personas, and posting times shows that the operation has established itself and is likely well-funded.

Dashboard for "Disruption"

Ted shared his system with Coin Fire via a TeamViewer connection and spoke at length with our team about how the system works when it comes to reddit. Ted works from his home and a great emphasis is placed on following "rules. The "DisruptDictator" system is locked to his specific IP addresses for access and contains several logging systems for his activity inside the dashboard from his employer. His Internet connection was in no way monitored and thus our team had free range to poke around with Ted, but his paranoia was high as he walked our team through several aspects of his daily job all the while requesting we protect his identity and that of the company he contracts for.

6

u/eof avatar

eof

•

11y ago

While Ted understands his employer can see the traffic indicating a remote connection when he is connected via a VPN provided by his employer, he believed it to be safe.

Ted logs into the reddit accounts via a VPN. Different accounts are marked to use different VPN connections to make them appear further legitimate to reddit administrators.

The system uses a Twitter bootstrap UI so it sizes down and can be "docked" in a browser window while the bulk of the work will take place in the larger window. Ted surfs to a thread using specific instructions to find it for disruption. From interactions with the dashboard, it becomes evident it is powered by Microsoft .NET and ASP.NET.

Ted explains that early on, the developers of the Disrupt dashboard realized that using links would leave referral links to the sites they intend to disrupt. While they had the dashboard locked to specific IP addresses, it wouldn't take long for site administrators to understand what was happening. The next iteration contained text with a URL that people such as Ted would copy and paste in to a browser, but the reddit administrators would eventually see direct linking and then voting as a potential means for disruption. In an effort to make sure the traffic and actions seem as organic as possible, each person will move to the particular thread using instructions telling them how to find the same thread that the "pitcher" throws at them.

Ted's day is simple. He spends approximately eight hours online each day with an hour lunch period. He only uses the dashboard in one window to determine where he will go next and makes efforts to disrupt. Sometimes he is directed to create new posts that will paint bitcoin reddit users in negative ways.

"Sometimes, I just have to go and make an anti-female post or something that makes bitcoin users look bad," Ted tells us.

Ted explains that when he first started, he was given plenty of reading material. His first week, he was given limited access to the dashboard that contained a myriad of content that would teach him the basic ropes on how he would be disrupting online conversations or communities. Ted's assignment was primarily reddit disruption, so he became familiar with the top users in the subreddits he would be tasked with disrupting.

Learning about the top posters in the bitcoin subreddit has allowed Ted to understand the viewpoints of the users. As he is engaging them, he is tasked with entering details on the dashboard about those particular users. If he has

seen a piece of information in a comment about the geographic location of a particular user for example, he will enter it on the dashboard notes so he or other users can refer to it later.

Ted is technically an independent contractor who is paid each week. Ted has been working as an independent contractor for this company for approximately a year. When Ted started his new "career path," he was making roughly \$8 per hour but has since moved up to the \$10 an hour level. He understands that eventually he can become a "pitcher" or someone who tosses new stories and areas that need disruptions to the "hitters" such as himself and make approximately \$15 an hour.

His weekly checks come from an extensive range of company names. Ted shared several of the canceled checks with the Coin Fire team who then explored the company names and registrations from various states. We found that the companies exist on paper within different states, but that other details, such as addresses, are typically mail drop locations or other postal type boxes.

None of the canceled checks contained names of companies that had any sort of Internet presence so finding out further information outside of what is available in state filings was difficult. The "leading group" behind the entire operation likely paying the smaller companies for services is completely hidden.

An ever-changing check signer makes it more difficult for Ted to find new work. While technically a "consultant" on paper and to friends and family, he can't offer his employer up on a resume or job applications. It appears to potential employers from the outside that Ted has been virtually unemployed for the last year.

Over the last several months, Ted has provided check statements, banking statements, messages from various skill accounts on reddit, access to his machine via TeamViewer, and provided names of the ever-changing company he performs work for.

When we asked Ted who his company represents, he admitted that he wasn't entirely sure. He speculates it isn't a government, but rather private companies that are paying the "home base" who in turn are paying the team behind the disruption. He has only spoken with a handful of people he works for on brief telephone conversations. He stated he was aware of at least one "pitcher" defecting and confessing on reddit one time as his dashboard showed one day the need to disrupt the conversation.

Who is behind the trolling and disruption isn't clear, but whether or not it is having an impact at times has been clear as Ted showed us threads where the entire conversation had been steered another way by his efforts.

We asked Ted if he would continue working and disrupting online conversations. He said that he understands he may get fired if his identity is exposed because of this piece and is ready to accept that outcome, but would make no efforts on

his own to quit until he has found another job that can pay his bills.

reddit staff did not reply to requests from Coin Fire for comment regarding the information presented.

5

Continue this thread

starrychloe

•

11y ago

2 more replies

u/NaturalBornHodler avatar

NaturalBornHodler

•

11y ago

The remainder of this content is only available for Coin Fire+ members.

I will pay 6 cents for the rest of the article. I won't pay a \$21 annual membership.

47

u/EvanDaniel avatar

EvanDaniel

•

11y ago

Seriously. A Bitcoin news source with a paywall that doesn't present a QR code? Please.

7

u/NotHyplon avatar

NotHyplon

•

11y ago

I will pay 6 cents for the rest of the article. I won't pay a \$21 annual membership.

Reason #789586 why you don't need to pay trolls for bitcoin when they do it themselves.

5

u/cointweets avatar

cointweets

•

11y ago

http://www.reddit.com/r/Bitcoin/comments/34m7yn/professional_bitcoin_trolls_exist/cqwc812

1

1 more reply

u/eof avatar

eof

•

11y ago

I propose a new rule for this sub: no hard pay walls

15

u/rydan avatar

rydan

•
11y ago
So I have to ask. Am I on this list?

1
u/coinfire avatar
coinfire

•
11y ago
hahaha. Not that I am aware of ;)

2

1 more reply
starrychloe

•
11y ago
Here is an example of shilling that was caught: <http://i.imgur.com/WcZdYCI.png>

Here are two ads for hiring shills on Odesk: <http://i.imgur.com/w2fLzCh.png>,
<http://i.imgur.com/eoPmOSs.png>

1

[deleted]

•
11y ago
u/NotHyplon avatar
NotHyplon

•
11y ago
Heh A paper about the internet as a whole reveals paid trolls so there must be paid trolls for bitcoin!

It's not like anyone involved in bitcoin has ever got eupphoric and decided bitcoin will be the new world currency in 2013 2014 2015 2016, made posts on the forum saying "we need more black people\women in bitcoin" or used the death of thosands to do a promotion for \$100 of bitcoin.

Nope it must be paid trolls! Shout out to the PLA Troll squad when are you going to join us at the annual Troll convention under Denver Airport?

2

[deleted]

•
11y ago
u/coins2014 avatar
coins2014

•
11y ago
Here ya go folks. The full text. Coin Fire's Plus page says all Plus paid stories are released for free at a later date but for those who just can't wait...

<http://paste4btc.com/9ozI5uck>

I still suggest you buy the paid service when you can. They give you access to see future stories on the backend.

5
u/StressOverStrain avatar

StressOverStrain

•

11y ago

And this is why "Why doesn't Coin Fire just charge us a few cents to view the one article?" argument is stupid. Some asshat will copy it all for everyone to see for free.

2

2 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Related Answers Section

Related Answers

How Bitcoin is changing global finance

Top strategies for Bitcoin investment

Best wallets for storing Bitcoin securely

Impact of Bitcoin on traditional banking

Future trends in Bitcoin technology

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

This is one of the Realest Bitcoin tweet, I've ever seen.

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

3d ago

This is one of the Realest Bitcoin tweet, I've ever seen.

r/Bitcoin - This is one of the Realest Bitcoin tweet, I've ever seen.

1.3K upvotes · 85 comments

This is why we bitcoin

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

7mo ago

This is why we bitcoin

r/Bitcoin - This is why we bitcoin

767 upvotes · 56 comments

This is why everyone need Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

2mo ago

This is why everyone need Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin - This is why everyone need Bitcoin

2.5K upvotes · 181 comments

Bitcoin is weird, man.

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

4mo ago

Bitcoin is weird, man.

r/Bitcoin - Bitcoin is weird, man.

2.2K upvotes · 83 comments

This the kind of stuff that keeps people away from Bitcoin.

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

4mo ago

This the kind of stuff that keeps people away from Bitcoin.

r/Bitcoin - This the kind of stuff that keeps people away from Bitcoin.

1.1K upvotes · 226 comments

Bitcoin, not crypto.

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

4mo ago

Bitcoin, not crypto.

r/Bitcoin - Bitcoin, not crypto.

435 upvotes · 49 comments

This is why we Bitcoin.

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

4mo ago

This is why we Bitcoin.

r/Bitcoin - This is why we Bitcoin.

745 upvotes · 86 comments

The Bitcoin haters are popping up everywhere

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

6mo ago

The Bitcoin haters are popping up everywhere

r/Bitcoin - The Bitcoin haters are popping up everywhere

206 upvotes · 105 comments

This is why we #Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

2mo ago

This is why we #Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin - This is why we #Bitcoin

4.6K upvotes · 77 comments

This is why we Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

6mo ago

This is why we Bitcoin

r/Bitcoin - This is why we Bitcoin

5.6K upvotes · 93 comments

Bitcoin ain't it chief

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

15d ago

Bitcoin ain't it chief

17 comments

Bitcoiners are going sane in an insane world.

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

2mo ago

Bitcoiners are going sane in an insane world.

r/Bitcoin - Bitcoiners are going sane in an insane world.

871 upvotes · 60 comments

Bitcoin Maximalists were right all along

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

2mo ago
Bitcoin Maximalists were right all along
128 upvotes · 28 comments
The Problem With Telling People Bitcoin
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

4mo ago
The Problem With Telling People Bitcoin
83 upvotes · 68 comments
This is why we bitcoin
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

5mo ago
This is why we bitcoin
r/Bitcoin - This is why we bitcoin
326 upvotes · 65 comments
They're trying to frustrate you out of BTC
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

7d ago
They're trying to frustrate you out of BTC
244 upvotes · 79 comments
Some people are closer to Bitcoin than they think
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

2mo ago
Some people are closer to Bitcoin than they think
76 upvotes · 16 comments
Member of r/bitcoin
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

15d ago
Member of r/bitcoin
r/Bitcoin - Member of r/bitcoin
68 upvotes · 36 comments
Classic Bitcoin excuser 😏
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

3mo ago
Classic Bitcoin excuser 😏
r/Bitcoin - Classic Bitcoin excuser 😏
316 upvotes · 39 comments
If I ever felt Bitcoin wasnt the way before, Im certain now
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

3mo ago
If I ever felt Bitcoin wasnt the way before, Im certain now
202 upvotes · 46 comments
Classic Bitcoin
r/Bitcoin icon
r/Bitcoin
•

2mo ago
Classic Bitcoin
r/Bitcoin - Classic Bitcoin
573 upvotes · 35 comments
The ONE anti-bitcoin talking point that really irks me and needs to be addressed

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

3mo ago

The ONE anti-bitcoin talking point that really irks me and needs to be addressed

79 upvotes · 62 comments

How many bitcoiners would be interested in this?

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

3mo ago

How many bitcoiners would be interested in this?

r/Bitcoin - How many bitcoiners would be interested in this?

139 upvotes · 103 comments

Why are these anti-crypto people so stupid?

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

4d ago

Why are these anti-crypto people so stupid?

r/Bitcoin - Why are these anti-crypto people so stupid?

9 comments

Epic Pro Bitcoiner Move

r/Bitcoin icon

r/Bitcoin

•

3mo ago

Epic Pro Bitcoiner Move

r/Bitcoin - Epic Pro Bitcoiner Move

111 upvotes · 8 comments

Community Info Section

r/Bitcoin

Join

Bitcoin - The Currency of the Internet

Bitcoin is the currency of the Internet: a distributed, worldwide, decentralized digital money. Unlike traditional currencies such as dollars, bitcoins are issued and managed without any central authority whatsoever: there is no government, company, or bank in charge of Bitcoin. As such, it is more resistant to wild inflation and corrupt banks. With Bitcoin, you can be your own bank.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of May 2, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of May 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

I get Paid to Chat on Reddit : r/offmychest

Open menu

r/offmychest

Search in r/offmychest

Log In

Expand user menu

Back
Go to offmychest
r/offmychest

•
11y ago
princessarista

I get Paid to Chat on Reddit
4.3K

•
1.3K
Comments Section
yellowmix
MOD

•
11y ago
The post has been verified by admins as a product of a creative writer who has serially abused this and other communities' presumptions of good faith. It is no feat to convince people of a story when benefit of the doubt is automatically given and enforced.

Submitting creative writing to this community is selfish. Providing support requires time and energy, finite resources that are drawn away by these distractions. There are people who did not receive support as a result of this post.

Additionally, creative writing posted to this community casts doubt on legitimate posters. It is common for posters to leave out or misremember certain details due to privacy concerns or other issues. There was another post today, which the OP deleted, after being harangued over story details.

Until there is proof, the assumption of good faith must be observed in order to provide safe support. We enforce this assumption. However, we act on known, malicious, false posts like this one because it harms people. If you believe a post to be maliciously false, send absolute proof to our modmail or contact the admins if it is a serial ban-evading creative writer or otherwise against the site-wide rules.

Edit: addendum: comments that have been removed either ask the creative writer a question or involve the creative writer's comments. These have been removed to deprive the creative writer of the attention they selfishly desired.

-42

[deleted]

•
11y ago

hiddeninthewoods

•
11y ago

[deleted]

•
11y ago
TheYellowRose
MOD

•
11y ago
Sorry everyone, got confirmation from an admin that this user is lying and basically is practicing their creative writing. Removed.

6

u/sighbourbon avatar
sighbourbon

•

11y ago

can you please back this up? can you tell us anything besides "this user is lying"?

19

10 more replies

37 more replies

[View more comments](#)

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

I visited my cousin in the US and realized I actually live better than him
r/offmychest

•

3d ago

I visited my cousin in the US and realized I actually live better than him

7.8K upvotes · 240 comments

Update: my Girlfriend came home in just her underwear

r/offmychest

•

2d ago

Update: my Girlfriend came home in just her underwear

3.9K upvotes · 383 comments

boyfriend didn't tell me about a traumatizing Christmas tradition

r/offmychest

•

5d ago

boyfriend didn't tell me about a traumatizing Christmas tradition

3.5K upvotes · 405 comments

My husband watched me catch feelings for another man I didn't ever realise I liked

r/offmychest

•

6d ago

My husband watched me catch feelings for another man I didn't ever realise I liked

3.2K upvotes · 155 comments

I'm secretly thrilled my ex's rebound is pregnant.

r/offmychest

•

2d ago

I'm secretly thrilled my ex's rebound is pregnant.

2.7K upvotes · 118 comments

My girlfriend came home in just her underwear and I am losing my mind

r/offmychest

•

6d ago

My girlfriend came home in just her underwear and I am losing my mind

2.5K upvotes · 547 comments

Got deported back to Mexico

r/offmychest

•

5d ago

Got deported back to Mexico

2.1K upvotes · 294 comments

Girlfriend told me she doesn't want to hear about my "dumb bird" anymore
r/offmychest

•

7d ago

Girlfriend told me she doesn't want to hear about my "dumb bird" anymore

2.1K upvotes · 662 comments

I'm a 40-year-old virgin. Here are 6 things people usually get wrong about me.

r/offmychest

•

6d ago

I'm a 40-year-old virgin. Here are 6 things people usually get wrong about me.

1.8K upvotes · 134 comments

Had two 3somes in a row, ended up in the psych ward after

r/offmychest

•

4d ago

NSFW

Had two 3somes in a row, ended up in the psych ward after

1.7K upvotes · 86 comments

My (27M) fat girlfriend (24F) is scared that she's slowing me down. She's right.

r/offmychest

•

4d ago

My (27M) fat girlfriend (24F) is scared that she's slowing me down. She's right.

1.6K upvotes · 446 comments

I just realized why my grandma had these tiny luxury perfumes

r/offmychest

•

1d ago

I just realized why my grandma had these tiny luxury perfumes

1.5K upvotes · 25 comments

I thought my sex life would be boring. Until my Fiancee showed enthusiasm last night.

r/offmychest

•

2d ago

NSFW

I thought my sex life would be boring. Until my Fiancee showed enthusiasm last night.

1.3K upvotes · 22 comments

It's Been 12 Years Since My(54F) Son(30M) Last Spoke To Me. Today I Found Out He's Moving To Europe.

r/offmychest

•

6d ago

It's Been 12 Years Since My(54F) Son(30M) Last Spoke To Me. Today I Found Out He's Moving To Europe.

1.3K upvotes · 277 comments

Am I wrong for calling the cops on my cousin after he tried to move into my room without asking?

r/offmychest

•

2d ago

Am I wrong for calling the cops on my cousin after he tried to move into my room without asking?

1.3K upvotes · 108 comments

My alcoholic mom just ruined my 3-year-old's Christmas Eve and I'm heartbroken.

r/offmychest

•

5d ago

My alcoholic mom just ruined my 3-year-old's Christmas Eve and I'm heartbroken.
1.2K upvotes · 92 comments
My boyfriend is 28 and doesn't know how to have sex. He doesn't know how to penetrate or thrust.
r/offmychest

•

6d ago

NSFW

My boyfriend is 28 and doesn't know how to have sex. He doesn't know how to penetrate or thrust.
1.2K upvotes · 183 comments
I'm tired of seeing people in public spaces in kink gear
r/offmychest

•

6d ago

I'm tired of seeing people in public spaces in kink gear
1.1K upvotes · 203 comments
my friend wants us to masturbate together
r/offmychest

•

1d ago

NSFW

my friend wants us to masturbate together
1K upvotes · 232 comments
Stepson just threatened to khs if we took his mom to court again
r/offmychest

•

4d ago

Stepson just threatened to khs if we took his mom to court again
977 upvotes · 96 comments
I was used for fetish content without my knowledge
r/offmychest

•

2d ago

I was used for fetish content without my knowledge
929 upvotes · 35 comments
Christmas sealed the deal...
r/offmychest

•

3d ago

Christmas sealed the deal...
880 upvotes · 107 comments
Tried breastfeeding a baby who isn't mine
r/offmychest

•

4d ago

NSFW

Tried breastfeeding a baby who isn't mine
878 upvotes · 76 comments
My husband is having an affair. I don't need any advice, I'm just having a pity party. Merry Christmas to me
r/offmychest

•

5d ago

My husband is having an affair. I don't need any advice, I'm just having a pity party. Merry Christmas to me
878 upvotes · 75 comments
Saying 'Boundary' Doesn't Make You the Boss of Other Adults
r/offmychest

•

2d ago

Saying 'Boundary' Doesn't Make You the Boss of Other Adults
743 upvotes · 47 comments
Community Info Section

r/offmychest

Join

Off My Chest | A Safe Community for Support

A mutually supportive community where deeply emotional things you can't tell people you know can be told. Whether it's long-standing baggage, happy thoughts, or recent trauma, posting it here may provide some relief. We'll listen, and if you want, we'll talk. We aim to keep this a safe space.

Show more

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of August 11, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of August 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved. Skip to main content

Alleged paid shill leaks details of organization and actions. : r/shills

Open menu

r/shills

Search in r/shills

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

Go to shills

r/shills

•

10y ago

NutritionResearch

Alleged paid shill leaks details of organization and actions.

The following post was copy/pasted from here. I substituted links with archived links due to the originals being broken.

If you are a highly engaged member of any community, you've likely run into trolls in the comments of your favorite websites.

These are people who come in with off-topic comments, cursing, highly inflammatory statements, or post things that divide communities or paint them in negative ways.

The Internet is the great democratization of information, and it certainly seems that trolls are destroying the experience for many online to those casually using the Internet. Are these Internet trolls multiplying? Are people now simply given a new avenue to say the things they want but do so anonymously, prompting more "troll-like behavior," or is something else at play?

The Internet was a place to have productive conversations and open discussions regarding a myriad of topics, but that has changed for many as Internet trolling seems to be reaching new levels. Instead of open discussion and debate, it seems that many are only disrupting conversations on the Internet.

It seems that every few months, someone proclaims on reddit that paid internet trolls and shills exist in the bitcoin community.

These claims are usually met with responses from concerned community members, those saying it is garbage, and a series of questions from moderators telling the original poster to prove the claims being made. Many responses from the community insist that the Internet trolls aren't disrupting anything and that self-policing and moderation will help ensure that trolling doesn't have an impact.

While many would like to believe that Internet trolling doesn't have an impact, the data simply says otherwise. In a study funded by the National Science Foundation titled "The 'Nasty Effect:' Online Incivility and Risk Perceptions of Emerging Technologies," researchers found that Internet trolling does in fact have a negative impact. This study was found that Internet trolling can sow seeds of doubt about the materials being presented. This study offers several insights on how the online environment may shape and polarize perceptions about topics, including new technologies.

In the study, researchers set up a blog and asked participants to read a blog post they had created about a technology called nano silver. The blog post presented points detailing the benefits and potential risks of the technology and with a comments section. Half of the participants saw comments that were trolling and the other half saw a comments section displaying civil discussion taking place.

The comments displayed for both groups were of equal length, contained various perspectives, and both praised the technology and discussed the potential risks. Readers in the study group were asked how they felt about the technology before and after reading the comments.

The participants exposed to the civil discussion reported having the same beliefs about the technology after reading the comments. The participants exposed to the hostile comments reported far more polarized feelings afterwards than they had reported initially. After reading the "troll" comments, the participants reported feeling significantly more negative about the technology and its potential risks than they had previously reported prior to reading the comments.

The findings positively support the theory that Internet trolling can effectively change the perspective of others reading the material presented.

After the study was published, Popular Science removed comments from articles on the Popular Science website stating,

A politically motivated, decades-long war on expertise has eroded the popular consensus on a wide variety of scientifically validated topics. Everything, from evolution to the origins of climate change, is mistakenly up for grabs again. Scientific certainty is just another thing for two people to "debate" on television. And because comments sections tend to be a grotesque reflection of the media culture surrounding them, the cynical work of undermining bedrock scientific doctrine is now being done beneath our own stories, within a website devoted to championing science.

Even a fractious minority wields enough power to skew a reader's perception of a story.

Several months ago, Coin Fire was tipped off about a group of "internet trolls" who were being paid to disrupt conversations across the Internet about a wide variety of topics, including bitcoin. Executive Editor Mike Johnson and various members of the Coin Fire staff were highly skeptical of this initial contact.

Several members of the Coin Fire staff requested proof in the form of reddit account usernames, evidence the accounts were controlled by the individuals involved in the trolling and shilling, and researched the corporate entities that were supposedly the company name of this team.

[in comments, otherwise too much text] Approximately nine months ago, we received a strange message on reddit from a user that had information regarding shilling that was taking place on the site.

It wasn't the first time our reddit account had received a strange and almost cryptic-like message, and it certainly wouldn't be the last time we saw someone declaring that paid shills and trolls existed specifically in the bitcoin subreddit.

At the time, Mike was the primary person behind Coin Fire and was overwhelmed with following a few leads regarding bitcoin merchant acceptance, so he left the message unread and without reply for several weeks. When I asked him why the message was left in the reddit inbox with nary a response for such a long time, he told me,

At the time, it was just me deciding where to spend resources and time. I was traveling, working on improving the site, and following a few other story leads. I chalked it up to a trolling itself and didn't think anything of it.

Eventually, Mike responded to the message stating that he would be open to chatting about what the person behind the statements had to say.

Inbox Photo

Believing that the story opportunity had passed, Mike noted that he hadn't received a response on BitMessage several weeks later and considered it to be a dead lead.

It wasn't until several months later when a BitMessage came in and was signed by the reddit user that the potential of a story even appeared on Coin Fire's radar. The message stated that the person on the other end wanted to make sure we could be trusted to protect his or her identity, and that they would slowly begin passing us the relevant details about the company that employed them and the extent of shilling and trolling on the bitcoin subreddit specifically.

Over the next several months, the person on the other end would provide information to our series of highly skeptical questions regarding the operations in which they were involved. We later learned they were part of relatively small team after learning about the job via a friend.

With each set of questions and answers, it seemed that what was being shared with our team was real, but the level of skepticism was still high amongst Coin Fire team members. It wasn't until months later that the person we were communicating with opened up more and began providing further shreds of evidence.

"Ted" claims to control over 100 reddit accounts, but we've been provided evidence that only 50 or so are truly under his control. The reddit accounts he is using all have long posting histories, and each have some account length and all appear completely legitimate from a first glance. Some of the accounts were started by other members of the reddit community initially and later purchased by his employer for use in his work.

The accounts all have "vast interests" and many of them are members of the r/bitcoin subreddit, but they also contain comments and postings in several other subreddits. Many of the accounts started off primarily on a different subreddit and eventually found themselves on r/bitcoin. Oftentimes, these accounts pose as new users of the cryptocurrency or as people who are experts in other fields of banking or technology.

Some of the accounts have been crafted by Ted himself or others on his team, and attention has been paid to keep track of the various accounts, the personas created around them, and even details such as "acceptable times" to post. All

accounts are shared in a system designed to help posters keep track of important details and make sure the illusion of genuine accounts is maintained.

The level of detail put behind the maintenance of accounts, personas, and posting times shows that the operation has established itself and is likely well-funded.

Dashboard for "Disruption" Ted shared his system with Coin Fire via a TeamViewer connection and spoke at length with our team about how the system works when it comes to reddit. Ted works from his home and a great emphasis is placed on following "rules. The "DisruptDictator" system is locked to his specific IP addresses for access and contains several logging systems for his activity inside the dashboard from his employer. His Internet connection was in no way monitored and thus our team had free range to poke around with Ted, but his paranoia was high as he walked our team through several aspects of his daily job all the while requesting we protect his identity and that of the company he contracts for.

While Ted understands his employer can see the traffic indicating a remote connection when he is connected via a VPN provided by his employer, he believed it to be safe.

Ted logs into the reddit accounts via a VPN. Different accounts are marked to use different VPN connections to make them appear further legitimate to reddit administrators.

The system uses a Twitter bootstrap UI so it sizes down and can be "docked" in a browser window while the bulk of the work will take place in the larger window. Ted surfs to a thread using specific instructions to find it for disruption. From interactions with the dashboard, it becomes evident it is powered by Microsoft .NET and ASP.NET.

Ted explains that early on, the developers of the Disrupt dashboard realized that using links would leave referral links to the sites they intend to disrupt. While they had the dashboard locked to specific IP addresses, it wouldn't take long for site administrators to understand what was happening. The next iteration contained text with a URL that people such as Ted would copy and paste in to a browser, but the reddit administrators would eventually see direct linking and then voting as a potential means for disruption. In an effort to make sure the traffic and actions seem as organic as possible, each person will move to the particular thread using instructions telling them how to find the same thread that the "pitcher" throws at them.

Ted's day is simple. He spends approximately eight hours online each day with an hour lunch period. He only uses the dashboard in one window to determine where he will go next and makes efforts to disrupt. Sometimes he is directed to create new posts that will paint bitcoin reddit users in negative ways.

"Sometimes, I just have to go and make an anti-female post or something that makes bitcoin users look bad," Ted tells us.

Ted explains that when he first started, he was given plenty of reading material. His first week, he was given limited access to the dashboard that contained a myriad of content that would teach him the basic ropes on how he would be disrupting online conversations or communities. Ted's assignment was primarily reddit disruption, so he became familiar with the top users in the subreddits he would be tasked with disrupting.

Learning about the top posters in the bitcoin subreddit has allowed Ted to understand the viewpoints of the users. As he is engaging them, he is tasked with entering details on the dashboard about those particular users. If he has seen a piece of information in a comment about the geographic location of a particular user for example, he will enter it on the dashboard notes so he or other users can refer to it later.

Ted is technically an independent contractor who is paid each week. Ted has been working as an independent contractor for this company for approximately a year. When Ted started his new "career path," he was making roughly \$8 per hour but has since moved up to the \$10 an hour level. He understands that eventually he can become a "pitcher" or someone who tosses new stories and areas that need disruptions to the "hitters" such as himself and make approximately \$15 an hour.

His weekly checks come from an extensive range of company names. Ted shared several of the canceled checks with the Coin Fire team who then explored the company names and registrations from various states. We found that the companies exist on paper within different states, but that other details, such as addresses, are typically mail drop locations or other postal type boxes.

None of the canceled checks contained names of companies that had any sort of Internet presence so finding out further information outside of what is available in state filings was difficult. The "leading group" behind the entire operation likely paying the smaller companies for services is completely hidden.

An ever-changing check signer makes it more difficult for Ted to find new work. While technically a "consultant" on paper and to friends and family, he can't offer his employer up on a resume or job applications. It appears to potential employers from the outside that Ted has been virtually unemployed for the last year.

Over the last several months, Ted has provided check statements, banking statements, messages from various shell accounts on reddit, access to his machine via TeamViewer, and provided names of the ever-changing company he performs work for.

When we asked Ted who his company represents, he admitted that he wasn't entirely sure. He speculates it isn't a government, but rather private companies that are paying the "home base" who in turn are paying the team behind the disruption. He has only spoken with a handful of people he works for on brief telephone conversations. He stated he was aware of at least one "pitcher" defecting and confessing on reddit one time as his dashboard showed one day the need to disrupt the conversation.

Who is behind the trolling and disruption isn't clear, but whether or not it is having an impact at times has been clear as Ted showed us threads where the entire conversation had been steered another way by his efforts.

We asked Ted if he would continue working and disrupting online conversations. He said that he understands he may get fired if his identity is exposed because of this piece and is ready to accept that outcome, but would make no efforts on his own to quit until he has found another job that can pay his bills.

reddit staff did not reply to requests from Coin Fire for comment regarding the information presented.

OP's comment in thread:

from post, it was too many chars without doing this.

Inbox Photo

see text at

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150614030216/http://paste4btc.com/9ozI5uck>

35

.

5

Comments Section

u/mangage avatar
mangage

•

10y ago

hey guys there's nothing to see here, this isn't happening. This post came from an imaginative person just coming off their meds.

/s

5

u/finlay422 avatar
finlay422

•

10y ago

Hello Mr shill

3

u/VLXS avatar
VLXS

•

10y ago

thatsthejoke.bmp (I like to imagine shills create "grassroots" memes in MS Paint)

2

2 more replies

New to Reddit?

Create your account and connect with a world of communities.

Continue With Phone Number

By continuing, you agree to our User Agreement and acknowledge that you understand the Privacy Policy.

More posts you may like

This community still manages to surprise me with how generous its members are.

r/pokemonribbons icon

r/pokemonribbons

•

11d ago

This community still manages to surprise me with how generous its members are.

r/pokemonribbons - This community still manages to surprise me with how generous its members are.

3

71 upvotes · 16 comments

This is what we are up against. They have bought out every major media organization and are removing all descent. We need to be organized in fighting back and promoting an alternative.

r/DarkNewsom icon

r/DarkNewsom

•

3mo ago

This is what we are up against. They have bought out every major media organization and are removing all descent. We need to be organized in fighting back and promoting an alternative.

r/DarkNewsom - This is what we are up against. They have bought out every major media organization and are removing all descent. We need to be organized in fighting back and promoting an alternative.

251 upvotes · 12 comments

Follow the money

r/stockport icon

r/stockport

•

24d ago

Follow the money

r/stockport - Follow the money

50 upvotes · 32 comments

Please remember stop sending your money to these grifters.

r/DisneyInfluencers icon

r/DisneyInfluencers

•

2mo ago

Please remember stop sending your money to these grifters.

76 upvotes · 33 comments

It's Time for the Foundation AND the Community to Change

r/algorand icon

r/algorand

•

17d ago

It's Time for the Foundation AND the Community to Change

53 upvotes · 46 comments

Considering leaving the organization

r/JehovahsWitnesses icon

r/JehovahsWitnesses

•

4mo ago

Considering leaving the organization

54 upvotes · 52 comments

Fake activism

r/LexiHidalgosnark icon

r/LexiHidalgosnark

•

2mo ago

Fake activism

r/LexiHidalgosnark - Fake activism

32 upvotes · 9 comments

He left his organization to work here

r/villainous icon

r/villainous

•

5mo ago

He left his organization to work here

r/villainous - He left his organization to work here

100 upvotes · 6 comments

A new antagonistic organization is approaching.

r/Mercenary_Enrollment icon

r/Mercenary_Enrollment

•

1mo ago

A new antagonistic organization is approaching.

r/Mercenary_Enrollment - A new antagonistic organization is approaching.

3

46 upvotes · 23 comments

i give my account

r/ClassPass

•

5d ago

i give my account

r/ClassPass - i give my account

25 upvotes · 45 comments

Its concerning that so many members in this community seem to just ignore the fact that

r/NLSSCircleJerk

•

1mo ago

Its concerning that so many members in this community seem to just ignore the

fact that
87 upvotes · 6 comments
Can we mass organize this?
r/nongolfers
•
3mo ago
Can we mass organize this?
1.9K upvotes · 218 comments
Key Organization
r/ContractorsExfilZone icon
r/ContractorsExfilZone
•
2mo ago
Key Organization
r/ContractorsExfilZone - Key Organization
37 upvotes · 36 comments
This comment always intrigued me from all your base belongs to us
r/OldInternetCultureV2 icon
r/OldInternetCultureV2
•
3mo ago
This comment always intrigued me from all your base belongs to us
r/OldInternetCultureV2 - This comment always intrigued me from all your base
belongs to us
29 upvotes · 11 comments
Updated Project Page
r/ICPTrader icon
r/ICPTrader
•
2mo ago
Updated Project Page
r/ICPTrader - Updated Project Page
41 upvotes · 15 comments
reminder of choice activism
r/LexiHidalgosnark icon
r/LexiHidalgosnark
•
2mo ago
reminder of choice activism
24 upvotes · 9 comments
PD Organized
r/peakdesign icon
r/peakdesign
•
1mo ago
PD Organized
r/peakdesign - PD Organized
68 upvotes · 9 comments
Reorganization announcement
r/USForestService icon
r/USForestService
•
5mo ago
Reorganization announcement
55 upvotes · 54 comments
We are so doomed, they are organized now...
r/TearsDonaldSalts icon
r/TearsDonaldSalts
•
5mo ago
We are so doomed, they are organized now...
r/TearsDonaldSalts - We are so doomed, they are organized now...
70 upvotes · 8 comments
Can we mass organize this?

r/50501utah icon

r/50501utah

•

3mo ago

Can we mass organize this?

59 upvotes · 17 comments

From the ProgressiveHQ community on Reddit: Say it louder for the people in the back! 🙌🙌🙌

r/TheGreaterDepression

•

2mo ago

From the ProgressiveHQ community on Reddit: Say it louder for the people in the back! 🙌🙌🙌

62 upvotes · 6 comments

Eighth Official Newsletter

r/Transformersnemesis icon

r/Transformersnemesis

•

1mo ago

Eighth Official Newsletter

r/Transformersnemesis - Eighth Official Newsletter

137 upvotes · 21 comments

A Huge Community Update - Collaborations, Posts, and more

r/SaucepanAI icon

r/SaucepanAI

•

2mo ago

A Huge Community Update - Collaborations, Posts, and more

r/SaucepanAI - A Huge Community Update - Collaborations, Posts, and more

24 upvotes · 2 comments

Community Info Section

r/shills

Join

/r/Shills

Exposing corporate and government shills on social media

Public

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of August 7, 2016

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of August 2016

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2016

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.Skip to main content

The Chevron Tapes: Video Shows Oil Giant Allegedly Covering Up Amazon

Contamination : r/worldnews

Open menu

r/worldnews

Search in r/worldnews

Log In

Expand user menu

r/worldnews icon

Go to worldnews

r/worldnews

•

11y ago
fosterlynch

The Chevron Tapes: Video Shows Oil Giant Allegedly Covering Up Amazon Contamination
r/worldnews - The Chevron Tapes: Video Shows Oil Giant Allegedly Covering Up Amazon Contamination
news.vice.com

Open
2.3K
.
264
Comments Section
[deleted]
.

11y ago
Expect PR bullshit any minute now. I occasionally share this comment I made a while back on threads I think might be swamped by PR Workers -

Former PR worker here, 99% of our job is to convince people that something that is fucking them over is actually good for them. The whole concept of 'shills' has somehow become a conspiracy theory when in reality it's just PR workers who are paid by a company to defend their product/service. My last job was defending fracking.

Anytime a post containing keywords was submitted to a popular website we were notified and it was our job to just list off talking points and debate the most popular comments. Fracking was an easy one to defend because you could paint people as anti-science if they were against it. The science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe, so you just focus on this point. You willfully ignore the fact that fracking is done by people who almost never do it properly and are always looking to cut corners.

Your talking points usually contain branching arguments if people try to debate back. For example my next point would be to bring up that these companies are regulated so they couldn't cut corners or they would be fined, all the while knowing that these agencies are either underfunded or have been captured by the very industry they are trying to regulate.

The final talking point, if someone called you out on all your counterpoints, was to simply try to paint them as a wackjob. Suggest they are crazy for thinking agencies who are supposed to protect them have been bought and paid for. Bring up lizard people to muddy the waters. A lot of people will quickly distance themselves from something if it is accused of being a conspiracy theory, and a lot of them are stupid enough that you can convince them that believing businesses conspiring to break the law to gain profit is literally the same as believing in aliens and bigfoot.

Edit: Just to clarify I am not an expert in the field of fracking, I am just a PR worker who worked on a fracking campaign and used it as an example. I got into a few heated debates about fracking in replies to this comment and some things I said might be wrong because as I said I am not an expert. I don't want this to take away from the actual point of this comment which is to make people aware of PR workers and how they try to sway online discussions.

971
gliscameria
.

11y ago
Effective. Now the top comment is about PR and not about this horrid shit these people are doing.

312

u/idiotseparator avatar
idiotseparator

•

11y ago

The shills are getting more and more sophisticated.

121

14 more replies

u/spasticbadger avatar
spasticbadger

•

11y ago

Well it is now that you have turned the conversation towards PR and not discussing the awful situation in the Amazon... See how it works? Here is the video for those who want to see it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l618BhvWkz4>
It's fucking disgusting.

32

3 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Wierd how now im looking at all comments diferenty tho.

http://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/3243a0/as_promised_anonymous_delivers_names_of_officers/cq7ob71

Is this guy whos been on reddit for 22 days part of some politician or corporate asshole PR plan to make us hate cop unions? I work for a state department that lost its union, It sucks BTW. Is someone going to call me out on being some tin foil hat wearing crazy alien lover?

I dont know what to think anymore.

8

6 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Part of the horrid shit these people are doing is shill PR, and I thank this guy for having the guts to expose it.

3

2 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Glad you said former, because what you were doing was pretty scummy.

86

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Yep no doubt thats why I like to call these people out and spread awareness when I can.

76

7 more replies

8 more replies

[deleted]

•

11y ago

It's not a conspiracy. Shills crawl this site like a parasite ridden dog.

<http://ro.ecu.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=isw>

28

u/BP_Public_Relations avatar

BP_Public_Relations

•

11y ago

You're imagining things. Why not imagine them while enjoying the pristine beaches of a fully recovered Gulf that may be better looking than ever?

14

6 more replies

keito

•

11y ago

One question... How do you sleep at night?

3

Netprincess

•

11y ago

Waves to the many PR punks swaying the masses to slowly kill themselves .

3

u/BP_Public_Relations avatar

BP_Public_Relations

•

11y ago

Jesus, Tom, you're posting drunk again. This is why you were let go, you know this isn't appropriate behaviour.

I know we're supposed to stick together, mate, but you're going to have a bit of a struggle in the business if you keep this up.

Maybe it's time to grab a seat, sit back, and wait for things to blow over.

5

u/Other_Dog avatar

Other_Dog

•

11y ago

Thank you.

This is an incredibly important post, and every single person on reddit should read it and understand its implications.

I want this comment to be at the top of every thread where monied interests might have a concern. It infuriates me that this goes on, and the average redditor either doesn't know about it, or for some idiotic reason doesn't think it matters.

8

grubber26

•

11y ago

So how accurate was Thank You For Smoking? One of my favourite films. Obviously had the Hollywood treatment, but the whole shill factory feel seemed to ring true.

4

1 more reply

Sleekery

•

11y ago

This, people, is what is called "poisoning the well". You're basically declaring that people who disagree with you are paid shills of the companies in question.

5

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Not the case. In another comment I point out that most people who are accused of being 'shills' are not, lunatic conspiracy theorists have poisoned this well by accusing anyone and everyone of being a shill so now the entire concept of PR workers doing PR has almost become a conspiracy in itself. I'm just pointing out that actual 'shills' are just PR workers and they are active on reddit.

3

3 more replies

u/Counter-Propaganda avatar

Counter-Propaganda

•

11y ago

As somebody who has seen both sides, what do you think the public do to combat well-funded and well-coordinated PR machines other than using the same tactics and creating the same sorts of canned, branching arguments to be used in debates against PR workers?

8

[deleted]

•

11y ago

I don't think you can do anything to combat it. The whole purpose of the PR isn't to win the debate, it's to create the illusion of a debate so people who on the fence remain undecided which in turn prolongs the government implementing regulation etc.

My advice to people who fall victim to PR misinformation is to view things more critical. Read up on logical fallacies which will help you not be a victim of them. A key one PR people use and many people fall for is known as "Appeal to authority" where they quote a person from an official agency as having said something. Most people are rational enough to know these 'official' stances can easily be corrupted but many people are happy to just accept it without question.

40

16 more replies

u/oneofmanyshills avatar

oneofmanyshills

•

11y ago

I've been trying to combat shills for a long time now.

In the end, you have to simply remember your end-game, which is convincing others of your side of the argument.

Realize how their canned, branching arguments work and simply respond to it with a convincing argument and try to win over your audience.

The thing about arguing is that not everybody can be convinced by raw facts and logic alone - although try to incorporate them, often you have to go down to their level - redirect their absurdities back at them.

Copy-paste their argument and change a few words to suit your needs. For example -

https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/31ckm4/surveillance_video_shows_former_bethel_police/cq0wd0l?context=3

I've become a sort of counter-propagandist but a propagandist non-the-less. I don't get paid for it, I'm just sick of people being brainwashed without somebody there to counter the lies and misleading statements.

Typically if you can back up your claims with hard facts and provide a generally more convincing argument with the truth, you'll win the battle.

Also keep in mind the fact that PR == Propaganda. Coming straight from the guy who coined the term -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dtg-qFPYDE>

It's only because the Germans and the war 'dirtied' the word that they came up with another term for it.

For a more in-depth look at the subject, The Century of the Self by Adam Curtis (9.0 on IMDB) is a great primer.

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-century-of-the-self/>

20

1 more reply

2 more replies

u/GeorgePantsMcG avatar
GeorgePantsMcG

•

11y ago

TIL. I have most likely, many times, fought with PR assholes on reddit.

2

1 more reply

u/aaaaaaaarrrrrgh avatar
aaaaaaaarrrrrgh

•

11y ago

Fracking was an easy one to defend because you could paint people as anti-science if they where against it. The science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe, so you just focus on this point. You willfully ignore the fact that fracking is done by people who almost never do it properly and are always looking to cut corners.

Your talking points usually contain branching arguments if people try to debate back. For example my next point would be to bring up that these companies are regulated so they couldn't cut corners or they would be fined, all the while knowing that these agencies are either underfunded or have been captured by the

very industry they are trying to regulate.

This sounds a lot like nuclear power... safe if it were done correctly, but instead we have nuclear waste barrels where literally half of the barrel is completely gone from rust.

2

1 more reply

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Thanks for the insight; my only counterpoint is with "the science behind fracking is sound and if done properly is safe"... earthquakes and tremors have increased 2 to 100 times around fracking sites (usually on the higher end), and I can't imagine that injecting tons of water into the earth won't cause some sort of imbalance or movement; water poisoning aside, pressurizing/liquifying substrate will have a rippling effect.

2

lalala253

•

11y ago

I bet you are PR people paid by those anti fracking communities.

5

u/PoopyParade avatar

PoopyParade

•

11y ago

Yeah because historically, environmentalist groups have always been well funded

8

11 more replies

View more replies

Solctice89

•

11y ago

Profits over people, profits over planet

18

[deleted]

•

11y ago

Came for the Oil Giant; found a bunch of white dudes.

3

u/whalemango avatar

whalemango

•

11y ago

Good. I'm glad these oil companies will now be held accountable.

I bet they get fined HUNDREDS of dollars.

22

u/exasperatedgoat avatar

exasperatedgoat

•

11y ago

Chevron just spent \$3 million dollars on our small city's city council election.
And yet they will spend decades fighting against having to clean up properly.

4

1 more reply

1 more reply

u/burned_some_bridges avatar
burned_some_bridges

•

11y ago

Oil Giant.

Infinite money.

Infinite power.

9

[deleted]

•

11y ago

the real price of oil is much high than market value. scars that will last generations and have annihilated entire cultures off of the face of this planet. if you think renewable energy isn't worth it I don't know what to tell you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ0EcJw8BZY>

43

u/Crioca avatar
Crioca

•

11y ago

the real price of oil is much high than market value.

This is called an externality and when it comes to oil they are significant and woefully under-accounted for.

18

1 more reply

u/btc3399 avatar
btc3399

•

11y ago

Sad. However, unfortunately this doesn't surprise me one bit.

9

1 more reply

More posts you may like

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/UpliftingNews icon

r/UpliftingNews

•

3mo ago

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

2.2K upvotes · 78 comments

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the

state's fragile coastal wetlands
r/EcoUplift icon
r/EcoUplift

•

3mo ago

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/EcoUplift - Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

happyeconews

895 upvotes · 31 comments

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

r/Environmentalism icon

r/Environmentalism

•

3mo ago

Chevron has been ordered to pay \$744 million in damages after Louisiana jury found the oil giant responsible for decades of environmental damage to the state's fragile coastal wetlands

2.1K upvotes · 57 comments

I'm 12. I emailed Chevron, Nestlé, and Dow about what they've done. None of them replied.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

6mo ago

I'm 12. I emailed Chevron, Nestlé, and Dow about what they've done. None of them replied.

r/climate - I'm 12. I emailed Chevron, Nestlé, and Dow about what they've done. None of them replied.

chevron

438 upvotes · 41 comments

U.S. Refining Giant Valero to Shut California Refinery

r/California_Politics icon

r/California_Politics

•

9mo ago

U.S. Refining Giant Valero to Shut California Refinery

r/California_Politics - U.S. Refining Giant Valero to Shut California Refinery oilprice

106 upvotes · 76 comments

Chevron payments make up nearly 24% of Richmond general fund, California city reveals accidentally

r/California_Politics icon

r/California_Politics

•

2mo ago

Chevron payments make up nearly 24% of Richmond general fund, California city reveals accidentally

r/California_Politics - Chevron payments make up nearly 24% of Richmond general fund, California city reveals accidentally

apnews

31 upvotes · 8 comments

Report Reveals \$2 Billion of New Financing by Big Banks for Oil and Gas in the Amazon

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

2mo ago

Report Reveals \$2 Billion of New Financing by Big Banks for Oil and Gas in the

Amazon

r/climate - Report Reveals \$2 Billion of New Financing by Big Banks for Oil and Gas in the Amazon

commondreams

102 upvotes · 14 comments

How the Past 25 Years of Big Oil's Lie-Filled Ads Have Delivered 'Climate Catastrophe'

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

19d ago

How the Past 25 Years of Big Oil's Lie-Filled Ads Have Delivered 'Climate Catastrophe'

r/climate - How the Past 25 Years of Big Oil's Lie-Filled Ads Have Delivered 'Climate Catastrophe'

commondreams

270 upvotes · 18 comments

To avoid climate catastrophe, we must take on Big Oil

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

3mo ago

To avoid climate catastrophe, we must take on Big Oil

r/climate - To avoid climate catastrophe, we must take on Big Oil

co

576 upvotes · 33 comments

Sites contaminated by toxic 'forever chemicals' are much more widespread than previously thought, researchers find

r/science icon

r/science

•

4mo ago

Sites contaminated by toxic 'forever chemicals' are much more widespread than previously thought, researchers find

r/science - Sites contaminated by toxic 'forever chemicals' are much more widespread than previously thought, researchers find

northeastern

2.2K upvotes · 27 comments

Australia should adopt US policies to attract fossil fuel dollars, says chief of 'carbon major' Chevron.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

4mo ago

Australia should adopt US policies to attract fossil fuel dollars, says chief of 'carbon major' Chevron.

r/climate - Australia should adopt US policies to attract fossil fuel dollars, says chief of 'carbon major' Chevron.

theguardian

95 upvotes · 21 comments

Chevron ordered to pay more than \$740 million to restore Louisiana coast in landmark trial

r/nature

•

9mo ago

Chevron ordered to pay more than \$740 million to restore Louisiana coast in landmark trial

r/nature - Chevron ordered to pay more than \$740 million to restore Louisiana coast in landmark trial

apnews

907 upvotes · 14 comments

Exxon Urges Europe to Repeal Rules to Make Companies Track Climate Pollution | Its chief executive called the E.U. regulations one part of a "very misguided effort to kill oil." His words followed comments by Trump administration

officials criticizing Europe's climate policies.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

3mo ago

Exxon Urges Europe to Repeal Rules to Make Companies Track Climate Pollution | Its chief executive called the E.U. regulations one part of a "very misguided effort to kill oil." His words followed comments by Trump administration officials criticizing Europe's climate policies.

167 upvotes · 10 comments

'Historic Mistake': Brazil Opens Up Amazon to New Oil Drilling Ahead of Global Climate Summit | "For us all to have a future, the oil industry can have no future," said one campaigner.

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

2mo ago

'Historic Mistake': Brazil Opens Up Amazon to New Oil Drilling Ahead of Global Climate Summit | "For us all to have a future, the oil industry can have no future," said one campaigner.

r/climate - 'Historic Mistake': Brazil Opens Up Amazon to New Oil Drilling Ahead of Global Climate Summit | "For us all to have a future, the oil industry can have no future," said one campaigner.

commondreams

218 upvotes · 10 comments

Nearly 19M Californians could lose protection from toxic 'forever chemicals' in tap water

r/California_Politics icon

r/California_Politics

•

18d ago

Nearly 19M Californians could lose protection from toxic 'forever chemicals' in tap water

56 upvotes · 7 comments

Nigerian communities to take Shell to high court over oil pollution

r/worldnews icon

r/worldnews

•

6mo ago

Nigerian communities to take Shell to high court over oil pollution

r/worldnews - Nigerian communities to take Shell to high court over oil pollution

theguardian

247 upvotes · 6 comments

California is sunseting oil refineries without a plan for what's next – Faced with a looming fuel crunch, some worry the state will push aside its efforts to combat climate change to keep gasoline flowing.

r/Infrastructurist icon

r/Infrastructurist

•

4mo ago

California is sunseting oil refineries without a plan for what's next – Faced with a looming fuel crunch, some worry the state will push aside its efforts to combat climate change to keep gasoline flowing.

r/Infrastructurist - California is sunseting oil refineries without a plan for what's next – Faced with a looming fuel crunch, some worry the state will push aside its efforts to combat climate change to keep gasoline flowing.

grist

60 upvotes · 88 comments

Amazon rainforest cut down to build highway for COP climate summit

r/news icon

r/news

•

10mo ago

Amazon rainforest cut down to build highway for COP climate summit
r/news - Amazon rainforest cut down to build highway for COP climate summit
co

4.1K upvotes · 182 comments

They can still give us oil

r/thecringeshowaward icon

r/thecringeshowaward

•

6mo ago

They can still give us oil

r/thecringeshowaward - They can still give us oil

1.3K upvotes · 38 comments

Guest post: How the role of carbon storage has been hugely overestimated

r/climate icon

r/climate

•

4mo ago

Guest post: How the role of carbon storage has been hugely overestimated

r/climate - Guest post: How the role of carbon storage has been hugely
overestimated

carbonbrief

153 upvotes · 19 comments

Oil leak

r/Derailedbydetails icon

r/Derailedbydetails

•

4mo ago

Oil leak

60 upvotes · 10 comments

Top Posts

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 8, 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of April 2015

Reddit

reReddit: Top posts of 2015

Reddit Rules

Privacy Policy

User Agreement

Your Privacy Choices

Accessibility

Reddit, Inc. © 2025. All rights reserved.r/The_Donald is banned

This Community was banned for violating rule 1, 2 and 8.

You agree that use of this site constitutes acceptance of Reddit's User
Agreement and acknowledge our Privacy Policy.

Browse Other Communities

[https://theintercept.com/document/2014/02/24/art-deception-training-new-
generation-online-covert-operations/](https://theintercept.com/document/2014/02/24/art-deception-training-new-generation-online-covert-operations/)

541 captures

8 Sep 2015 - 28 Dec 2025

May JUN Jul

26

2018 2019 2020

About this capture

EnglishPortuguês

Politics

Justice

National Security

World

Technology

[Environment](#)
[Special Investigations](#)
[Voices](#)
[Podcasts](#)
[Videos](#)
[Documents](#)
[About](#)
[Editorial Policies](#)
[Become a Source](#)
[Join Newsletter](#)
[Become A Member](#)
[First Look Media logo](#)
The Intercept is a First Look Media Company.

© First Look Media. All rights reserved

[Terms of use](#)[Privacy](#)[Sitemap](#)

[Documents](#)

The Art of Deception: Training for a New Generation of Online Covert Operations
Feb. 24 2014 — 6:24p.m.

1/50Download

archive.today
webpage capture
Saved from
https://theintercept.com/document/2014/02/24/art-deception-training-new-generation-online-covert-operations/
history+priornext→
25 Oct 2017 18:22:24 UTC
All snapshots from host theintercept.com
WebpageScreenshot
sharedownload .zipreport bug or abuseBuy me a coffee
≡
EnglishPortuguês
🔍
Features
Series
Documents
Intercepted Podcast
Glenn Greenwald
About Us
Editorial Policies
Become a Source
Donate
ft贖泳寄零鎗
© First Look Media. All rights reserved
Terms of usePrivacySitemap
Documents
The Art of Deception: Training for a New Generation of Online Covert Operations
Feb. 25 2014 – 12:24am
1/50📄Download

0%

10%

20%

30%

40%

50%

60%

70%

80%

90%

100%

Skip to main content

Kenneth Arnold's story went from 9 discs/saucers, to 8 discs and one possible crescent-shaped object, finally to 9 crescents. Today, people claim Arnold was misquoted to "debunk" flying saucers, and this is the only exception to the rule "always go with earliest information" that debunkers make. : r/UFOs

Open menu

r/UFOs

Search in r/UFOs

Log In

Expand user menu

Back

r/UFOs icon

Go to UFOs

r/UFOs

•

2y ago
MKULTRA_Escapee

Kenneth Arnold's story went from 9 discs/saucers, to 8 discs and one possible crescent-shaped object, finally to 9 crescents. Today, people claim Arnold was misquoted to "debunk" flying saucers, and this is the only exception to the rule "always go with earliest information" that debunkers make.

With all of the contradictory information out there about Kenneth Arnold, and the fact that his sighting is the first modern UFO report that received widespread publicity (even though UFOs go back at least a thousand years), I think it's important to take a second look at this sighting.

As debunkers always say, memory fades over time, so it's very curious why they go with the latest version of Kenneth Arnold's sighting in order to debunk flying saucers, rather than the earliest information fresh from his memory, which you'd think they would prefer. As the debunker argument goes, Arnold saw 9 crescents and claimed he was misquoted, meaning that the entire flying saucer phenomenon is a result of media hysteria.

Kenneth Arnold actually seems like a textbook example of a person whose memory faded over time. This happens to everyone, some much more significantly than others. This is the exact reason why it's so important to gather information about a witness early, then you have more skepticism of their claims as time goes on. It is expected that the witness's story will change over time, and this seems to be exactly what happened with Arnold. Another curious behavior that I have seen is that debunkers will use a story that changed over time to dismiss the entire story, when in fact this is expected anyway as they themselves claim.

Kenneth Arnold did, in fact, use the terms "saucer" and "disk" early on to describe the shape of the objects he witnessed, and "saucer skipping" described the movement as well. Kenneth Arnold's story went from 9 saucers or disks, to 8 saucers/disks and one possible crescent, then later on it turned into 9 crescents. Just scrap all of that and go with the earliest information and you're good to go.

The timeline:

June 26, 1947, two days after the sighting, Arnold on recorded audio: "They looked something like a pie plate that was cut in half with a convex triangle in the rear." <http://www.konsulting.com/K-Arnold%20Layer-3.WAV> This identically describes his own drawing (see below). You cut a pie plate in half, then add a triangle in the rear. Instead of an entire pie plate, or entire "saucer" if you will, there are two little bits missing.

1947, some one or two weeks after the sighting, Kenneth Arnold creates a drawing, containing a top and side view with a written description, and gives this to the Army. The object looks like 95 percent of a flying saucer: <https://imgur.com/a/ETRrFB1> (two images, one contains red circle added by me)

1952, In Arnold's book *The Coming of the Saucers* page 21 and 22, he says:

For some reason, and I don't know why, I did not tell them that one of the flying disks in the formation I observed appeared different from the rest. In fact, I never even told Doris. I thought it was the angle from which I observed this particular one which made it look different and I wasn't completely positive about it. It was rather odd too, because I kept thinking about this one flying saucer that looked different and I always intended to tell someone about it. <https://archive.org/details/TheComingOfTheSaucers/page/n11/mode/2up>

And this:

According to Jerome Clark, [3][4] Arnold described them as a series of objects with convex shapes, though he later revealed that one object differed by being crescent-shaped. Several years later, Arnold would state he likened their

movement to saucers skipping on water, without comparing their actual shapes to saucers,[5] but initial quotes from him do indeed have him comparing the shape to a "saucer", "disc", "pie pan", or "half moon", or generally convex and thin. [2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Arnold_UFO_sighting

1978, February and March, Arnold is interviewed by telephone and now claims he saw nine crescents:

ARNOLD: No, I've seen them seven or eight times, and my first impression is this: The ones that I first reported over Mount Rainier were definitely crescent-shaped type things, with a pulsating thing in the middle of them. <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwii-uDBgdeBAXWLYKEHRIbAVcQFnoECBAQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocuments.theblackvault.com%2Fdocuments%2FMUFON%2Fpratt%2FKennethArnold.pdf&usg=A0vVaw1aIISZhtJ490doSgcwl9lS&opi=89978449>

Conclusion:

Kenneth Arnold probably did see 9 flying saucers/disks, but since the idea of "flying saucers" was not in the media or his head at the time, he had trouble understanding how they could be flying, so he may have incorrectly remembered a tiny bit of "wing" on the saucers, but the accuracy of it still looks like 90-95 percent. Alternatively, perhaps there is a tiny bit of wing on all saucers, but most people think of the object as a perfect saucer, so they are inaccurate by perhaps 5-10 percent.

Regardless of which it is, this crescent myth has been overwhelmingly debunked. It is simply not possible that 9 discs can turn into 8 discs and one possible crescent, then later 9 crescents. For whatever reason, Arnold's story changed over time, and it's clearly obvious that the earliest information is the best.

Alternate Conclusion:

The most common shapes of UFOs is still classified: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7dnex/activist-publishes-redacted-version-of-classified-military-ufo-report>

In addition to that, there are at least 5 sources to confirm the extremely highly classified nature of UFOs, and this extends back at least as early as 1949:

https://np.reddit.com/r/aliens/comments/zp14fk/til_the_united_states_put_cameras_on_the_end_of/j0py7cj/

In this link (PDF), read under "DEVIOUS INTELLIGENCE AGENTS" where Arnold mentions a "threat" he received in 1952.

Kenneth Arnold himself claims he was threatened, but his daughter also said the same in 2011, although pinning down exactly who it was who threatened him was third hand information, and thus useless. However, she says in an interview with Paola Harris:

And of course my mother and my dad, truly I think, felt threatened for the rest of their lives. So I guess that would be one of the reasons he became kind of a recluse and refused to go anywhere and talk about it or anything. I even have a letter in my files written in my mother's own handwriting stating her fear that if they went to a UFO Convention in Mexico their plane might be shot down and both of them killed. Now, looking back on this letter, my mother never did get over being threatened by the government. <https://paolaharris.com/home-page/interview-of-the-month-kim-arnold>

Did Kenneth Arnold exaggerate a bit over time and warp the story to 9 crescents so the entire phenomenon could be debunked because he felt threatened? I would say probably not, but I can't rule it out. A more reasonable conclusion seems

that his memory faded over time, but it does seem rather extreme in this instance. 9 saucers reported initially changed to 9 crescents. Maybe it's just an extreme case of memory distortion over time. Regardless of the cause, the original information from Arnold himself is obviously the most accurate.

Read more

38

.

28

Comments Section

sendmeyourtulips

•

2y ago

I take a complicated view with Ken Arnold's story that only leaves questions. Although his was the first viral UFO report, hundreds of others reported seeing them too. It was, in many ways, the most important report because it coined the "flying saucer" term and Arnold's credibility was considered solid. So what's my problem?

His detailed account put those objects at least 20 miles away. This is what he wrote on July 8th 1947 (2 weeks later):

I observed them quite plainly, and I estimate my distance from them, which was almost at right angles, to be between twenty to twenty-five miles. I knew they must be very large to observe their shape at that distance, even on as clear a day as it was that Tuesday. In fact I compared a Zeus fastener or cowling tool I had in my pocket with them - holding it up on them and holding it up on the DC-4 - that I could observe at quite a distance to my left, and they seemed smaller than the DC-4; but, I should judge their span would have been as wide as the furthest engines on each side of the fuselage of the DC-4. (source)

20 miles away is 105000ft which is, in altitude terms, more than double what commercial airliners fly at. Even a huge 767 loses details at 50k ft. Imagine it's a clear day and you shade your eyes as you look up at a high altitude jet? Tiny, right? The SR-71 (wider than a DC-4) went to 85k ft and was practically invisible to the naked eye at that altitude. For his details to be visible the 9 objects would have to have been 3-4 times larger than modern airliners.

Arnold wrote how this lasted no more than 3 minutes and his estimates of speed were over a 1000mph. That would mean the objects travelled over 50 miles (calculator) in that time. It's difficult to imagine 9 fast-moving and shiny objects going unseen (bar Arnold) over such a distance and it suggests the only witness was Ken Arnold.

Did he make up a story that ran away from him? Was he mistaken? Were these objects really there or visionary? Was he the unwitting harbinger of the "summer of saucers" and cast in the role by the phenomenon? I've no idea.

11

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

2y ago

If you were directly underneath the SR71, and thus only 85,000 feet away, you probably could have made it out if the atmosphere wasn't between you and it, but I'd like a source that says it would be invisible since that isn't easy to locate. Arnold's actual speed estimate of the objects was about 1,800 mph, but he dropped that to 1,200 for the media to be very conservative. 1,200 was still an incredible speed in 1947. If anything, he may have been either a little closer to them than he thought, or they were a little larger than his estimate, or both, or it was entirely accurate. I don't buy the claim that he couldn't see them.

Arnold was at 10,000 feet altitude, as well as the objects, and you can see farther and better at this altitude. Air pollution, for example, decreases as altitude increases. It also depends on the shape of the object and it's orientation. A big round object seen on it's side would be easier to make out compared to an SR71 seen from a steep angle below (where most observers would be, not directly under it) and through the atmosphere. From the wikipedia on the Arnold sighting:

Sometimes he said he could see them on edge when they seemed so thin and flat they were practically invisible.

Also from your link, Arnold says this:

There was a DC-4 to the left and to the rear of me approximately fifteen miles distance, and I should judge, at 14,000 foot elevation.

The claim you're making is that pilots can't clearly make out another aircraft 15-20 miles from them at the same altitude, correct? You're saying the SR71 was invisible at 16 miles (looking straight up and through the atmosphere, however), so it should be fairly easy to ask a pilot whether they can make out the general shape of an aircraft 15-20 miles away from them at the same altitude. Pilots are supposed to have excellent vision, so I would imagine they probably could, but lets ask. We should probably round it down to 10-12 for fairness because we are comparing an almost perfectly round object seen on it's side versus an airplane level with another, and the objects were passing in front of mountains as well, not just sitting in the air.

Kenneth Arnold also wasn't the only witness.

June 24, 1947; Mt. Adams, Wash. (BBU 12) Afternoon. Just about the time that Kenneth Arnold lost sight of his objects, Fred Johnson, listed as a prospector, reported watching five or six disc-shaped craft as they flew over the Cascade Mountains. He said they were round with a slight tail and about 30 feet in diameter. They were not flying in any sort of formation and as they banked in a turn, the sunlight flashed off them. As they approached, Johnson noticed that his compass began to spin wildly. When the objects finally vanished in the distance, the compass returned to normal.

7
sendmeyourtulips

•

2y ago

If you were directly underneath the SR71, and thus only 85,000 feet away, you probably could have made it out if the atmosphere wasn't between you and it, but I'd like a source that says it would be invisible since that isn't easy to locate.

Right. I won't get bogged down on this because I didn't say it would be invisible and the distance Arnold described was 105000 feet minimum ("20 to 25 miles"). I used minimums in the comment so as not to load my bases. It would be 135000 feet at 25 miles and I don't know where you got the "15 miles" from. See if this helps you to visualise my point.

Arnold's actual speed estimate of the objects was about 1,800 mph, but he dropped that to 1,200 for the media to be very conservative.

I know. I went for minimums to avoid loading the bases.

Arnold was at 10,000 feet altitude, as well as the objects, and you can see farther and better at this altitude. Air pollution, for example, decreases as altitude increases. It also depends on the shape of the object and it's orientation.

I was using altitude to make it relatable because we all know what a high altitude plane looks like. Tiny! The same plane 20 miles away in any direction, or altitude, will remain very tiny and hard to distinguish the features he described - unless they were much, much larger than DC-4s.

We should probably round it down to 10-12 for fairness because we are comparing an almost perfectly round object seen on it's side versus an airplane level with another, and the objects were passing in front of mountains as well, not just sitting in the air.

He was clear in his estimates that the objects were "20 to 25 miles" away so why overrule his account by cutting that distance in half?

If you reread my first comment you should agree that it was accurate in the details and the points being made were fact-based.

Kenneth Arnold also wasn't the only witness.

The report was made after Arnold's. There were fewer objects (5-6 not 9) and they were considerably smaller than Arnold's "DC-4" sized objects.

4

9 more replies

MaxDamage75

•

2y ago

By the description it seems he saw 9 Northrop YB-49 . First versions of single wing jets had poor elevation stability so they were flying like skipping stones.

1

u/Scrubunit avatar

Scrubunit

•

2y ago

No way 9 Northrop YB-49s ever flew in formation

4

u/Sentry579 avatar

Sentry579

•

2y ago

Further background on Kenneth Arnold:

Kenneth Arnold's Flying Saucer Philosophy

1

u/YourOverlords avatar

YourOverlords

•

2y ago

I always thought he saw some formation of US Mil tech taken from the Nazis. Like a formation of Horton Jets or something Jack Northrup was working on, namely the N-1M flying wing which could have had a jet engine by '47 as he made that in '40. Anyway, just a thought that's always been there for me.

2

[deleted]

•

2y ago

Thanks for your work. It might be useful to learn a bit more about how memory works. I'm not an expert, but I have prepared and questioned many of them.

Memory isn't perfectly captured like a video that slowly degrades over time. Memory is actually pieces of information reconstructed every time it is recalled. It's never a wholly accurate portrayal. To use the video example, it would only capture a certain angle. A certain context and constraint on information. Now imagine the software on the video player gets upgraded over time and the original file that was compressed to certain important still images that are stitched together is processed by the upgraded software. The playback would change. So it is with a person. As Arnold changed, his memory would change to some degree as well. Many people memorize the story of the events and retell it again and again consistently. This likely means that they aren't actually recalling the event. Just the words. Just the story. The story frames the memory. It isn't actually an objective indicator of increased reliability. It is completely normal for Arnold to think about the images he had in his mind and shape them with his understanding over time. Especially if the recall would merit better contextual acceptance. People don't like being shunned and they don't like states of anxiety. They don't just give into pressure, they literally reshape the events in their minds eye to accord with the context. It is unconscious and unavoidable to some degree. That's how we generate ourselves in time. As such, it's true to some extent with all perception. The lags and filters are just different. Evidence from a witness isn't true or false. It is reliable and valuable within a context of proof. So we as a group do the same thing with testimony as an individual does with memory. We construct a framework of understand and attempt to minimize inaccuracies. As we learn more, we literally perceive more. Our software can build a better model out of the bits of information we have available to us. Minds (individual and/or collective) then shape and process the details. Evidence and proof is an active process shaped by a shared culture of understanding. No class of evidence is per se worthless. It may be suspect, but it depends on other factors to determine how we treat evidence. The same is true of memory, and to lesser degree, perception itself (which includes hands on experience—sorry REAL evidence kooks). Arnold was an impeccable witness. He described what he saw to the best of his ability. Was his understanding of he saw sufficient to provide a perfect description? No. But he always forthrightly did the best he could. He was an honest man who always tried to explain what he observed in very difficult and changing circumstances. The man is a hero.

3
u/MKULTRA_Escaper avatar
MKULTRA_Escaper
OP

•
2y ago
Do you know anyone who shares a memory you had 10, 20, or 30 years ago? Compare notes now. There will often be some significant differences, especially if you have them write down their memory and you write down yours, then compare. They can bleed together a bit if you try to recall them both in real time. The more time that passes, the more differences there should be.

3
u/TPconnoisseur avatar
TPconnoisseur

•
2y ago
Arnold also went on to research the Maury Island Incident which happened a few days before his sighting and 40 miles to the NW. Whatever he saw stuck with him.

5
DodgyDossierDealer

•
2y ago
Read "Saucers," by Chris Aubeck. He has written the definitive timeline of Kenneth Arnold's statements and when and how he got misquoted in an AP story.

5

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

2y ago

I'm sure he was misquoted somewhere or whatever, but his original statements directly by Arnold, both his own voice in audio and original drawing/text are available, and they don't match the claim that he saw "9 crescents," so the claim that he saw 9 crescents is false. But thanks for the share. I might pick that up.

4

MyAssDoesHeeHawww

•

2y ago

The little sketch he made was kinda "saucer in the front, crescent in the back".

4

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

2y ago

Opposite of a crescent if we're being technical, but I laughed way too hard at that.

2

Ok-Caregiver8239

•

2y ago

Google and check out the wood carving from Nuremberg Germany from like 1560 which clearly shows a UFO fight in the sky with one crashed on the ground with a multitude of people pointing up and looking at the happenings. I'm sure some d***** will say that oh they're just looking at stars okay so they had a star that crashed on the ground by the lake smoking?

2

u/MKULTRA_Escapee avatar

MKULTRA_Escapee

OP

•

2y ago

That one, and this one from 1864 (reported in 1865) are the earliest UFO crashes I've come across: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn84027008/1865-11-05/ed-1/?sp=3&st=text&clip=31%2C24%2C1009%2C5069&ciw=1009&rot=0>

I'm sure there are probably other old cases.

1

u/derricktysonadams avatar

derricktysonadams

•

6mo ago

This sounds more like he saw a meteor than a UFO.

1

1 more reply

Related Answers Section